

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**STAFF COMMENTS ON**  
**COMMERCIAL, PERSONAL USE, SPORT, AND SUBSISTENCE**  
**REGULATORY PROPOSALS**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUPS 1–5**  
**FOR**

**ALASKA PENINSULA/ALEUTIAN ISLAND/CHIGNIK FINFISH**

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING**  
**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**February 20–25, 2023**



Regional Information Report No. 5J23-01

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) meeting, February 20–25, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

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***REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT 5J2023-01***

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**FEBRUARY 20–25, 2023**

by  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services  
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518–1565

January 2023



## ABSTRACT

This document contains Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) staff comments on commercial, personal use, sport, and subsistence regulatory proposals for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik finfish. These comments were prepared by the department for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 20–25, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska. The comments are forwarded to assist the public and board. The comments contained herein should be considered preliminary and subject to change, as new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral public testimony presented to the board.

Keywords: Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department), staff comments, regulatory proposals, fisheries, commercial, personal use, sport, subsistence, Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Chignik, finfish, regulations, management plans, escapement goals, methods, means, bag limits, allocation, salmon.

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Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals for Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik finfish; Anchorage, February 20–25, 2023.

Proposal number	Department position	Issue
Group 1: Subsistence salmon, sport fishing (7 proposals)		
98	S	Modify waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders
99	N	Prohibit retention of king salmon and establish closed areas in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.
100	N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek.
101	N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.
102	N	Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and tributaries of Bear River.
103	N	Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay.
104	S	Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.
Group 2: Chignik Area salmon (15 proposals)		
105	S	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.
106	O	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to increase inriver escapement of sockeye salmon prior to opening a commercial fishery by emergency order.
107	N	Modify the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow more commercial fishing time by implementing commercial salmon fishing periods regardless of sockeye salmon escapement.
108	O	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to implement commercial salmon fishing periods in June.
109	O/N/S	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to apply mandatory closures in the Chignik Management Area, repeal the inriver run goal in August and September and remove the 48-hour maximum weekly fishing period in September.
110	N	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to restrict commercial fishing periods in Chignik Lagoon until the escapement goal has been met.
111	N	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Eastern District in August.
112	N	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to include a harvest cap in the Eastern District to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.
113	O	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to require post-June commercial salmon fishing periods in portions of the Western and Perryville Districts.
114	O	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods in portions of the Eastern District.
115	O	Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands Sections of Registration Area M.
116	O	Modify the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to manage the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Section of Registration Area M.

Note: N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose

-continued-

Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals (page 2 of 3).

Group 2: Chignik Area salmon (continued)		
117	O	Amend the fishing districts, sections, and subsections to increase fishing time and area by creating new sections in outside waters of the Chignik Management Area.
118	N	Amend the districts, sections and subsections and the management plan to increase commercial fishing time and area in the Western and Perryville Districts in August.
119	–	Amend allowable gear in the Chignik Management Area to include troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery and amend regulations in Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery to include the Chignik Management Area.
Group 3: North Alaska Peninsula salmon (10 proposals)		
120	O	Modify fishing periods in the Northern District.
121	N	Amend the fishing season in the Three Hills Section to increase potential fishing time and aligning sections to similar fishing periods.
122	N/S	Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section.
123	N/S	Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section.
124	N/S	Amend fishing seasons, fishing periods and gear to allow more commercial fishing time to all Registration Area M gear types in the Cinder River Section.
125	S	Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section.
126	N	Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section.
127	N	Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time in the Caribou Flats Section.
128	N	Amend gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions.
129	N	Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow monofilament web in the Northern District commercial salmon set gillnet fishery.
Group 4: South Alaska Peninsula salmon (20 proposals)		
130	N	Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow more commercial salmon fishing time in Orzinski Bay if the escapement objectives into Orzinski Lake are met.
131	N	Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11, purse seine gear concurrent to open commercial fishing periods for salmon in the Chignik Management Area and would Remove the required sockeye salmon harvest thresholds for CMA as described in the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> .
132	S	Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.
133	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine gear.
134	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.
135	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section.
136	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to implement a chum salmon harvest cap to reduce commercial fishing time.
137	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.

Note: N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose; en dash means deferral request.

Summary of department positions on regulatory proposals (page 3 of 3).

Group 4: South Alaska Peninsula salmon (continued)		
138	O	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to require the department to place observers onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels.
139	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to restrict commercial salmon fishing time.
140	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.
141	N	Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to require the department to manage the June fishery by emergency order to close those areas within the management plan. Amend 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. to allow other gear types to be used in the commercial fishery.
142	N	Amend <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> and <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow more fishing time for set gillnet gear only.
143	N	Amend the <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula</i> to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment.
144	O	Amend the <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula</i> to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts.
145	N	Amend the <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula</i> to increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.
146	O	Amend the <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula</i> to increase commercial salmon fishing periods.
147	N	Amend the <i>Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula</i> to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear.
148	N	Amend a suite of management plans to reduce commercial fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula area.
149	N	Amend a suite of management plans for the South Alaska Peninsula area to reduce commercial fishing time.
Group 5: South Alaska Peninsula salmon (3 proposals)		
150	N	Amend districts and sections, <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> and <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> by including the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the Southcentral District.
151	N	Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow offshore anchoring of the up to 25 fathom seine web lead.
152	N	Amend the closed water boundary in Stepovak Bay to increase commercial fishing area in the Stepovak Flats Section.

Note: N = Neutral; S = Support; O = Oppose.



## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 1: SUBSISTENCE SALMON, SPORT FISHING (7 PROPOSALS)**

### *Subsistence (1 proposal)*

**PROPOSAL 98** – **Modify waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders.**

**5 AAC 01.425. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Modify Alaska Peninsula waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 01.425(6) is amended to read:

**(6) the waters described in 5 AAC 39.290 and for a commercial salmon fishing permit holder,** the waters specified in 5 AAC 09.350 **during an open commercial salmon fishing period.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In 1993, the board found that salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.416). The board established a range of 34,000–56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses. Under state regulations, all Alaska state residents are eligible to participate in subsistence salmon fishing. A subsistence permit, which must be used to record daily harvests, is required for fishing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. There is an annual limit of 250 salmon per household, but a permit holder may obtain an additional permit from the department (5AAC 01.430).

In the Alaska Peninsula Area, waters described in 5 AAC 09.350 are closed to all subsistence fishers during an open commercial salmon fishing period regardless whether they hold a CFEC limited entry salmon permit.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** More access to subsistence fishing area for subsistence fishermen who do not also hold a CFEC permit or crewmember license. Individuals that do not have a commercial fishing license or CFEC permit who wish to subsistence fish would be allowed to subsistence fish in waters closed to CFEC limited entry salmon permit holders as described in 5 AAC 09.350 (Figure 98-1) regardless of when commercial salmon fishery openings occur.

**BACKGROUND:** Current regulations restrict the general public from subsistence fishing in certain areas during a commercial salmon fishing period. This restriction was likely intended to prevent the harvest and sale of subsistence salmon using commercial gear from waters with smaller runs of salmon where overharvest could occur, which is still a concern. Presumably, subsistence and commercial users were lumped into the same set of regulations due to the large degree of overlap between subsistence and commercial fishing households in the region. Modification of this regulation would allow those members of the general public who do not possess a commercial salmon fishing permit or crewmember license to subsistence fish in waters where commercial salmon fishing license holders are restricted.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** its adoption.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or for a private person to participate in this fishery.

**SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:**

1. Is this stock in a nonsubsistence area? No.
2. Is this stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board determined that salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.416).
3. Can a portion of this stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes. Subsistence harvest within the Alaska Peninsula area is consistent with sustained yield.
4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board established a range of 34,000 to 56,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses. Under state regulations, all Alaska state residents are eligible to participate in subsistence salmon fishing. A subsistence permit, which must be used to record daily harvests, is required for fishing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. There is an annual limit of 250 salmon per household, but a permit holder may obtain an additional permit from the department (5AAC 01.430).
5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.
6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

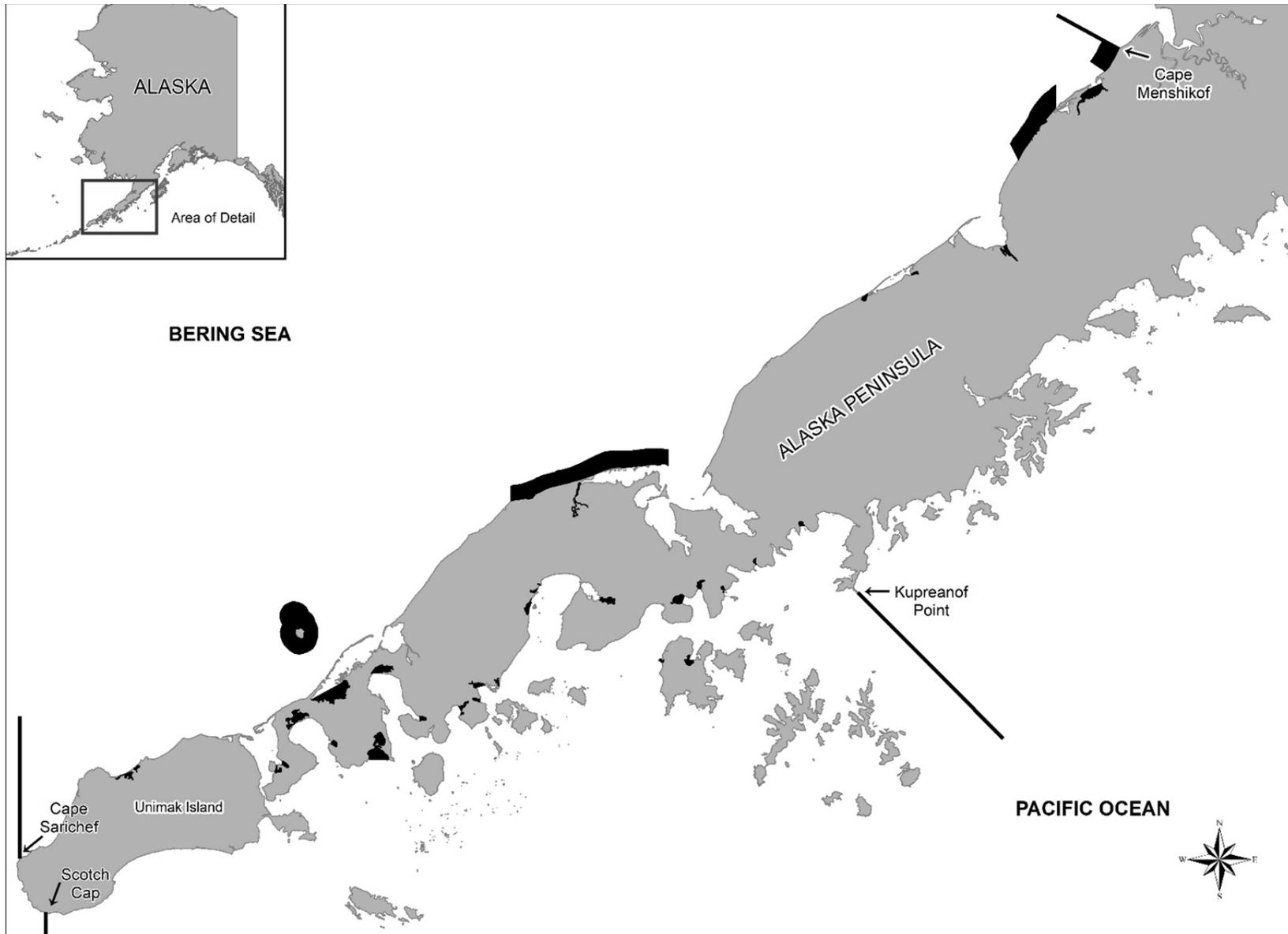


Figure 98-1.—Map of Alaska Peninsula Management Area with closed waters from 5 AAC 09.350 defined in black.

*Sport salmon (6 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 99 – Prohibit retention of king salmon and establish closed areas in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.**

**5 AAC. 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** J. W. Smith

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek and establish closed waters in the upper portions of both rivers.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow harvest of king salmon in both the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, except that the lower portion of King Salmon River from the mouth to a marker 1,000 yards upstream is closed to the harvest of king salmon (catch-and-release fishing only) and gear is restricted to only artificial lures or flies. Outside of this area, there is a bag and possession limit of two king salmon over 20 inches, and a five fish over 20 inches annual limit for the fresh waters of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA). The king salmon season for fresh waters of the APAIA is January 1 through July 25.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The area anglers are able to fish would be reduced in the King Salmon River to approximately the lower three river miles of the drainage (Figure 99-1), and in Ridgerunner Creek, approximately the lower one mile of the drainage until its confluence with the Milky River (Figure 99-2). In addition, harvest of king salmon downstream of these areas would be prohibited and only catch-and-release fishing would be allowed. If adopted as written, the use of bait would still be prohibited from the mouth of the King Salmon River up to the marker about 1,000 yards upstream and only artificial flies or lures would be able to be used in this area, whereas bait could be used in Ridgerunner Creek up to the closed waters and in the King Salmon River from the marker at 1,000 yards above the mouth to the proposed closed waters boundary about three river miles upstream. King salmon mortality in these sections would be reduced to catch-and-release mortality. Harvest of king salmon would still be allowed nearby in the remainder of the Bear River drainage under general bag and annual limits and seasons for the APAIA.

**BACKGROUND:** The north side of the Alaska Peninsula has numerous small king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for these stocks. The King Salmon and Bear River drainages are monitored primarily by aerial surveys in river sections that king salmon utilize. There is a weir near the outlet of Bear Lake that monitors the early and late sockeye salmon runs, but few king salmon are counted due to the location of the weir in the drainage. The Milky River and Ridgerunner Creek are tributaries of the Bear River with Ridgerunner Creek entering the Milky River about 2 miles upstream of its confluence with Bear River (Figure 99-2).

Aerial surveys of the Bear River drainage are primarily aimed at counting sockeye salmon and many tributaries of the drainage are difficult to observe fish in due to turbid water; however, it is often noted that most of the king salmon observed during these surveys are found in Ridgerunner Creek or at the confluence of Ridgerunner Creek and the Milky River. While not observed in every

survey or every season, king salmon counts in Ridgerunner Creek have averaged 593 king salmon from 2013–2022 (Table 99-1). Aerial surveys of the King Salmon River have averaged 578 king salmon during the same time period (Table 99-1).

King salmon sport fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the APAIA and other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the King Salmon or Bear River drainages due to low responses rates in the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). Estimates are available for the APAIA as a whole and have averaged 384 king salmon harvested and 4,266 released for all Alaska Peninsula streams from 2012–2021 (Table 99-2). Harvests of King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek king salmon occur in nearby commercial fisheries as well and harvest of king salmon in the Bear River Section has averaged 204 king salmon from 2012–2021 (Table 99-3).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

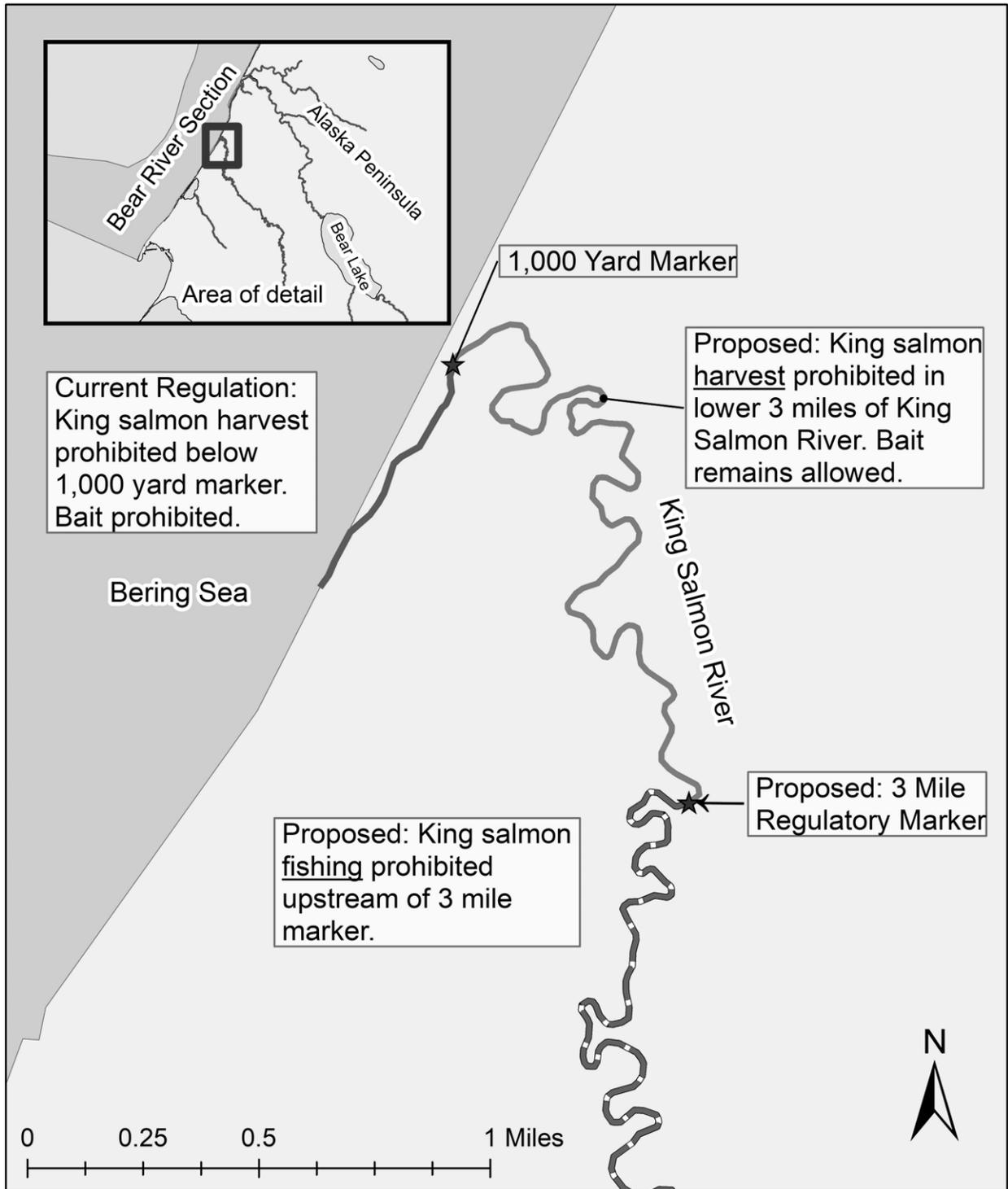


Figure 99-1.—Map of current and proposed sportfishing boundaries in the King Salmon River.

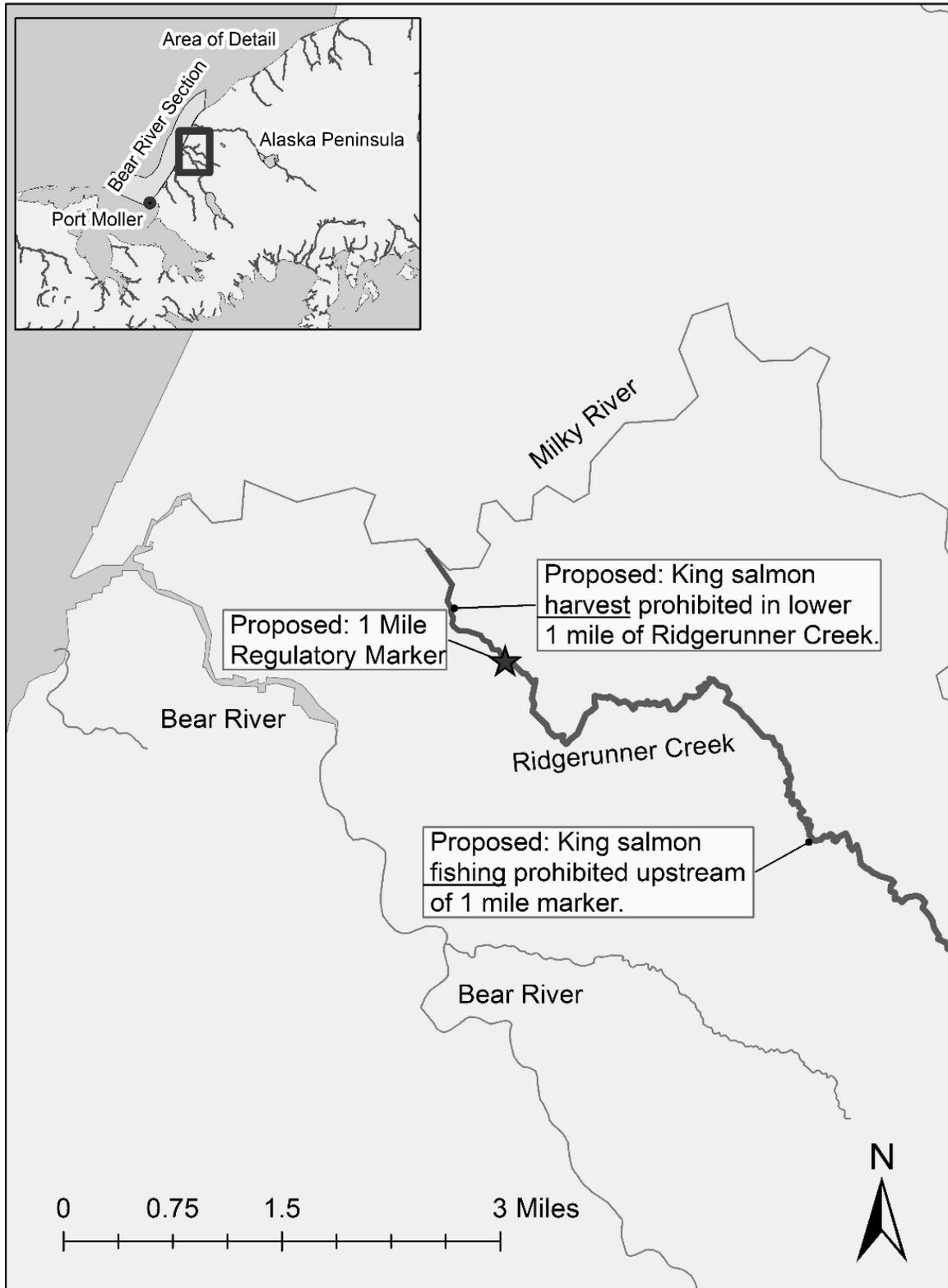


Figure 99-2.—Map of current and proposed sportfishing boundaries for Ridgerunner Creek.

Table 99-1.–Aerial survey counts of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, 2013–2022.

Year	King Salmon River	Ridgerunner Creek
2013	400	600
2014	275	160
2015	200	1,000
2016	1,100	950
2017	900	800
2018	400	1,200
2019	900	820
2020	625	0
2021	800	400
2022	175	0
2013–2022 Average	578	593

Table 99-2.–SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest and release in the APAIA.

Year	Angler-days	Harvest	Release
2012	5,809	399	1,688
2013	5,342	588	833
2014	8,088	249	3,517
2015	6,937	379	4,930
2016	5,549	363	4,000
2017	7,456	549	5,027
2018	10,788	646	11,256
2019	12,764	266	6,380
2020	7,688	16	98
2021	7,703	22	4,928
2012–2021 Average	7,723	384	4,266

Table 99-3.–Commercial harvests of king salmon in the Bear River Section, 2012–2021.

Year	Harvest
2012	65
2013	42
2014	260
2015	724
2016	109
2017	180
2018	21
2019	278
2020	31
2021	331
2012–2021 Average	204

**PROPOSAL 100 – Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon and Milky rivers and Ridgerunner Creek.**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alan and Tanjala Eischens.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would prohibit retention of king salmon over 20 inches in the King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek but reduce the bag limit for king salmon under 20 inches to one per day.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow harvest of king salmon in the King Salmon and Milky rivers and Ridgerunner Creek, except that the lower portion of the King Salmon River from the mouth to a marker 1,000 yards upstream is closed to the harvest of king salmon (catch-and-release fishing only) and gear is restricted to only unbaited, artificial lures or flies. Outside of this area, there is a bag and possession of two king salmon over 20 inches, and a five fish over 20 inches annual limit. The bag and possession limit for king salmon under 20 inches is 10 fish. The king salmon season for fresh waters of the APAIA is January 1 through July 25.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The sport fishing bag limit of king salmon would be reduced to one king salmon under 20 inches, in the King Salmon River and in two tributaries of the Bear River: the Milky River and Ridgerunner Creek (Figure 100-1). If adopted as written, the use of bait would still be prohibited from the mouth of the King Salmon River up to the marker about 1,000 yards upstream and only artificial flies or lures would be able to be used in this area, whereas bait could be used in the remainder of the King Salmon and Milky rivers and Ridgerunner Creek. King salmon mortality in these sections would be reduced to only fish under 20 in that are harvested and catch-and-release mortality of all sizes of fish that are released. Harvest of king salmon would still be allowed nearby in the remainder of the Bear River drainage under general bag and annual limits and seasons for the APAIA.

**BACKGROUND:** The north side of the Alaska Peninsula has numerous small king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for these stocks. The King Salmon and Bear River drainages are monitored primarily by aerial surveys in river sections that king salmon utilize. There is a weir near the outlet of Bear Lake that monitors the early and late sockeye salmon runs, but few king salmon are counted due to the location of the weir in the drainage. The Milky River and Ridgerunner Creek are tributaries of the Bear River, with Ridgerunner Creek entering the Milky River about 2 miles upstream of its confluence with the Bear River (Figure 100-1).

Aerial surveys of the Bear River drainage are primarily aimed at counting sockeye salmon and many tributaries of the drainage are difficult to observe fish in due to turbid water; however, it is often noted that most of the king salmon observed during these surveys are found in Ridgerunner Creek or at the confluence of Ridgerunner Creek and the Milky River. While not observed in every survey or every season, king salmon counts in Ridgerunner Creek have averaged 593 king salmon from 2013–2022 (Table 100-1). Aerial surveys of the King Salmon River have averaged 578 king salmon during the same time period (Table 100-1).

King salmon sport fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the APAIA and other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the King Salmon or Bear River drainages due to low responses rates in the SWHS. Estimates are available for the APAIA as a whole and have averaged 384 king salmon harvested and 4,266 released for all Alaska Peninsula streams from 2012–2021 (Table 100-2). Harvests of King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek king salmon occur in nearby commercial fisheries as well and harvest of king salmon in the Bear River Section has averaged 204 king salmon from 2012–2021 (Table 100-3).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

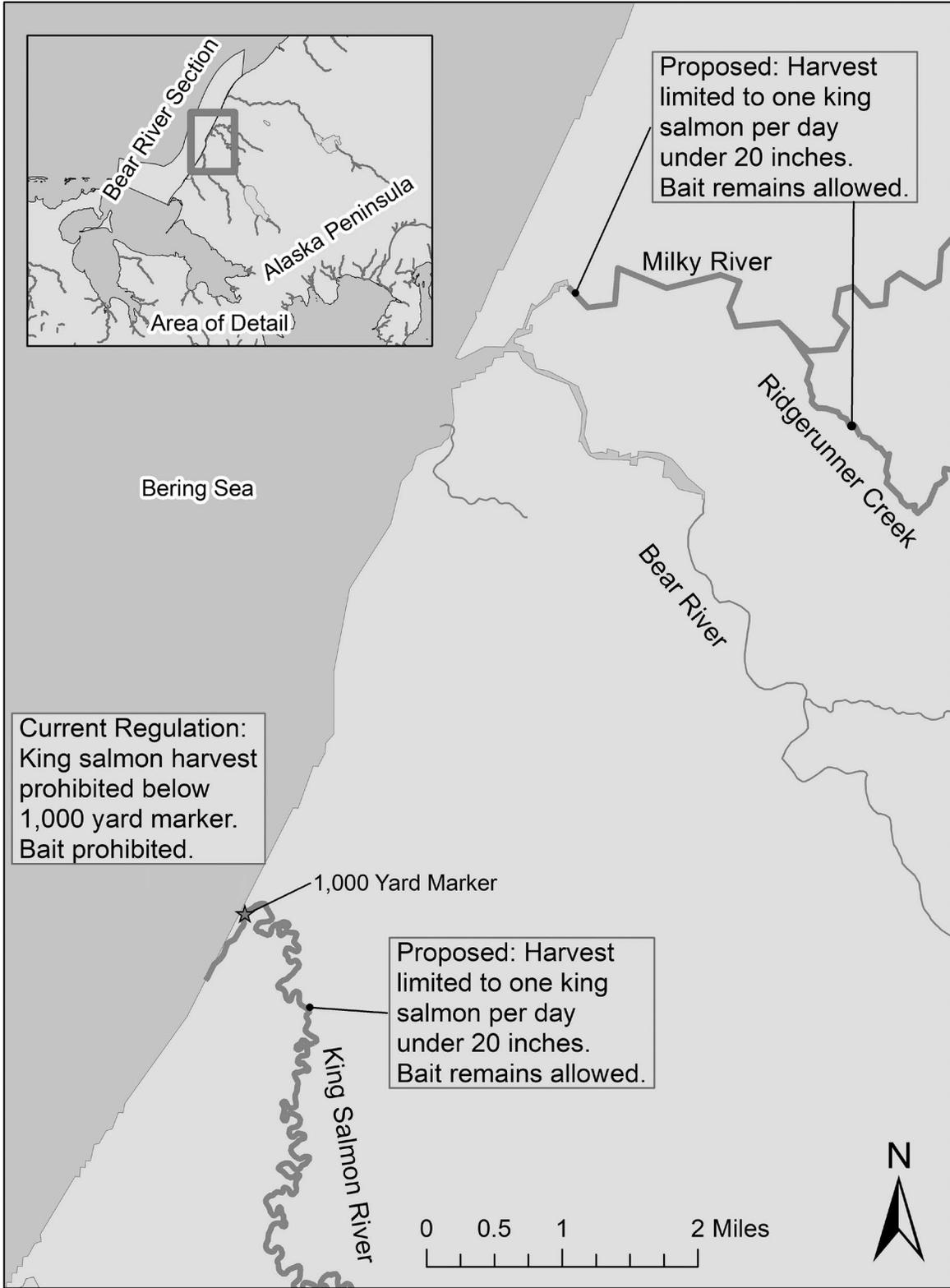


Figure 100-1.—Map of the King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek with current sportfishing boundaries.

Table 100-1.—Aerial survey counts of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, 2013–2022.

Year	King Salmon River	Ridgerunner Creek
2013	400	600
2014	275	160
2015	200	1,000
2016	1,100	950
2017	900	800
2018	400	1,200
2019	900	820
2020	625	0
2021	800	400
2022	175	0
2013–2022 Average	578	593

Table 100-2.—SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest and release on the Alaska Peninsula.

Year	Angler-days	Harvest	Release
2012	5,809	399	1,688
2013	5,342	588	833
2014	8,088	249	3,517
2015	6,937	379	4,930
2016	5,549	363	4,000
2017	7,456	549	5,027
2018	10,788	646	11,256
2019	12,764	266	6,380
2020	7,688	16	98
2021	7,703	22	4,928
2012–2021 Average	7,723	384	4,266

Table 100-3.—Commercial harvests of king salmon in the Bear River Section, 2012–2021.

Year	Harvest
2012	65
2013	42
2014	260
2015	724
2016	109
2017	180
2018	21
2019	278
2020	31
2021	331
2012–2021 Average	204

**PROPOSAL 101 – Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Gillis.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow harvest of king salmon in both the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, except that the lower portion of the King Salmon River from the mouth to a marker 1,000 yards upstream is closed to the harvest of king salmon (catch-and-release fishing only) and gear is restricted to only unbaited, artificial lures or flies. Outside of this area, there is a bag and possession limit of two king salmon over 20 inches, and a five fish over 20 inches annual limit for the fresh waters of the APAIA. The king salmon season for fresh waters of the APAIA is January 1 through July 25.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would reduce the mortality of king salmon in the King Salmon River and in Ridgerunner Creek (Figure 101-1). If adopted as written, the use of bait would still be prohibited from the mouth of the King Salmon River up to the marker about 1,000 yards upstream and only artificial flies or lures would be able to be used in this area, whereas bait could be used in the remainder of the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek. King salmon mortality in these sections would be reduced to catch-and-release mortality. Harvest of king salmon would still be allowed nearby in the remainder of the Bear River drainage under general bag and annual limits and seasons for the APAIA.

**BACKGROUND:** The north side of the Alaska Peninsula has numerous small king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for these stocks. The King Salmon and Bear River drainages are monitored primarily by aerial surveys in river sections that king salmon utilize. There is a weir near the outlet of Bear Lake that monitors the early and late sockeye salmon runs, but few king salmon are counted due to the location of the weir in the drainage. The Milky River and Ridgerunner Creek are tributaries of the Bear River, with Ridgerunner Creek entering the Milky River about 2 miles upstream of its confluence with the Bear River (Figure 101-1).

Aerial surveys of the Bear River drainage are primarily aimed at counting sockeye salmon and many tributaries of the drainage are difficult to observe fish in due to turbid water; however, it is often noted that most of the king salmon observed during these surveys are found in Ridgerunner Creek or at the confluence of Ridgerunner Creek and the Milky River. While not observed in every survey or every season, king salmon counts in Ridgerunner Creek have averaged 593 king salmon from 2013–2022 (Table 101-1). Aerial surveys of the King Salmon River have averaged 578 king salmon during the same time period (Table 101-1).

King salmon sport fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the APAIA and other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the King Salmon or Bear River drainages due to low responses rates in the SWHS. Estimates are available for the

APAIA as a whole and have averaged 384 king salmon harvested and 4,266 released for all Alaska Peninsula streams from 2012–2021 (Table 101-2). Harvests of King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek king salmon occur in nearby commercial fisheries as well and harvest of king salmon in the Bear River Section has averaged 204 king salmon from 2012–2021 (Table 101-3).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

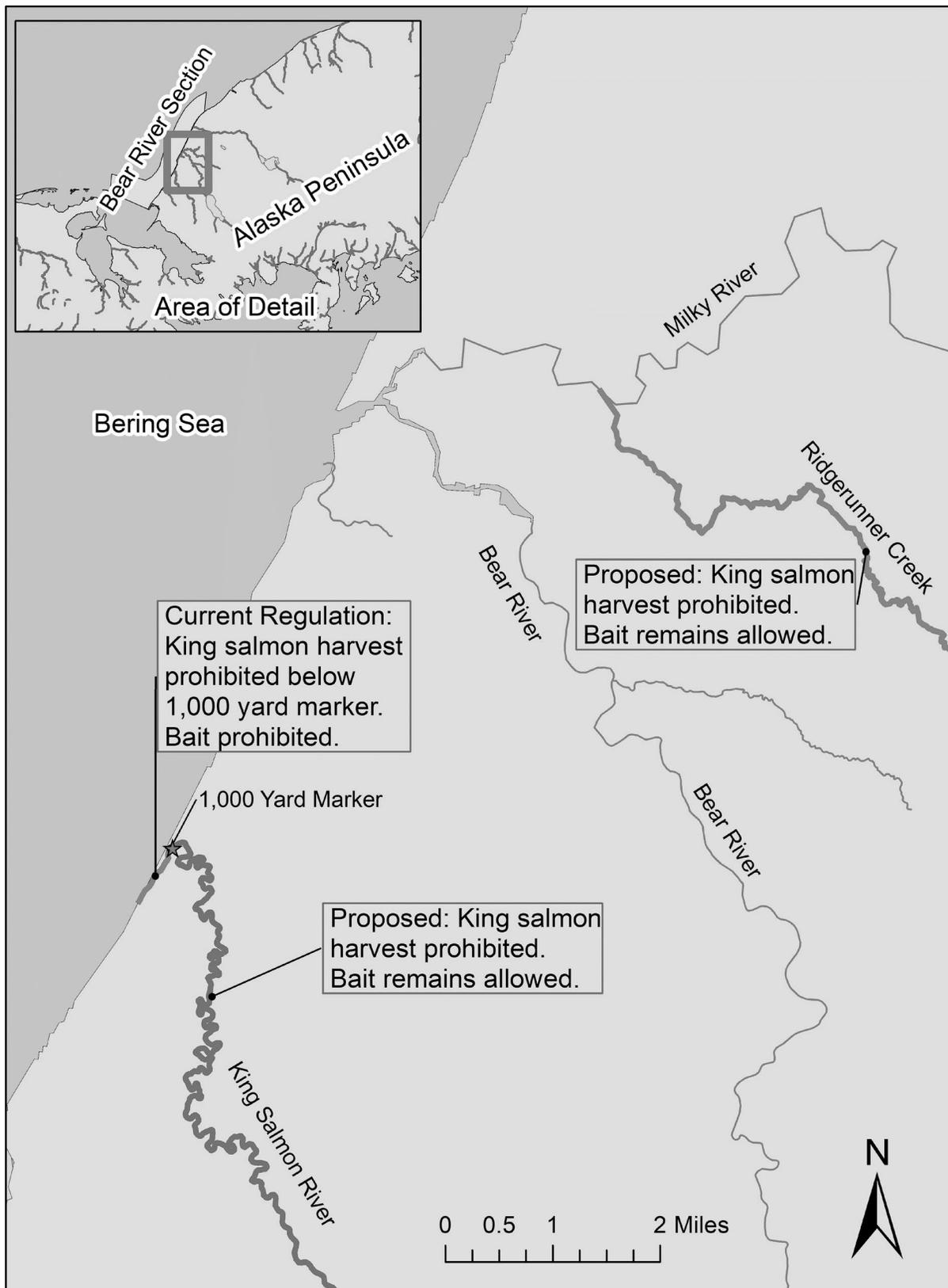


Figure 101-1.—Map of the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek with current and proposed sportfishing boundaries.

Table 101-1.—Aerial survey counts of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, 2013–2022.

Year	King Salmon River	Ridgerunner Creek
2013	400	600
2014	275	160
2015	200	1,000
2016	1,100	950
2017	900	800
2018	400	1,200
2019	900	820
2020	625	0
2021	800	400
2022	175	0
2013–2022		
Average	578	593

Table 101-2.—SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest and release on the Alaska Peninsula.

Year	Angler-days	Harvest	Release
2012	5,809	399	1,688
2013	5,342	588	833
2014	8,088	249	3,517
2015	6,937	379	4,930
2016	5,549	363	4,000
2017	7,456	549	5,027
2018	10,788	646	11,256
2019	12,764	266	6,380
2020	7,688	16	98
2021	7,703	22	4,928
2012–2021			
Average	7,723	384	4,266

Table 101-3.—Commercial harvests of king salmon in the Bear River Section, 2012–2021.

Year	Harvest
2012	65
2013	42
2014	260
2015	724
2016	109
2017	180
2018	21
2019	278
2020	31
2021	331
2012–2021	
Average	204

**PROPOSAL 102 – Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and tributaries of Bear River.**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Connor Murphy.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would prohibit retention of king salmon in the King Salmon River and the tributaries of the Bear River drainage

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations allow harvest of king salmon in both the King Salmon River and the Bear River drainage and its tributaries, except that the lower portion of the King Salmon River from the mouth to a marker 1,000 yards upstream is closed to the harvest of king salmon (catch-and-release fishing only) and gear is restricted to only unbaited, artificial lures or flies. Outside of this area, there is a bag and possession limit of two king salmon over 20 inches and a five fish over 20 inches annual limit for the fresh waters of the APAIA. The king salmon season for fresh waters of the APAIA is January 1 through July 25.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would prohibit the harvest of king salmon in the King Salmon River and in the tributaries of the Bear River drainage, whereas the mainstem of the Bear River and Bear Lake would be open to harvest of king salmon (Figure 102-1). If adopted as written, the use of bait would still be prohibited from the mouth of the King Salmon River up to the marker about 1,000 yards upstream and only artificial flies or lures would be able to be used in this area, whereas bait could be used in the remainder of the King Salmon River and in the Bear River drainage. King salmon mortality in these sections would be reduced to catch-and-release mortality.

**BACKGROUND:** The north side of the Alaska Peninsula has numerous small king salmon runs in the drainages flowing into the Bering Sea and little information exists in terms of escapement estimates, run timing, and harvests for these stocks. The King Salmon and the Bear River drainages are monitored primarily by aerial surveys in river sections that king salmon utilize. There is a weir near the outlet of Bear Lake that monitors the early and late sockeye salmon runs, but few king salmon are counted due to the location of the weir in the drainage. The Milky River and Ridgerunner Creek are tributaries of the Bear River, with Ridgerunner Creek entering the Milky River about 2 miles upstream of its confluence with the Bear River (Figure 102-1).

Aerial surveys of the Bear River drainage are primarily aimed at counting sockeye salmon and many tributaries of the drainage are difficult to observe fish in due to turbid water; however, it is often noted that most of the king salmon observed during these surveys are found in Ridgerunner Creek or at the confluence of Ridgerunner Creek and the Milky River. While not observed in every survey or every season, king salmon counts in Ridgerunner Creek have averaged 593 king salmon from 2013–2022 (Table 102-1). Aerial surveys of the King Salmon River have averaged 578 king salmon during the same time period (Table 102-1).

King salmon sport fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula are typically characterized by low effort and harvest relative to other sport fisheries in the APAIA and other king salmon fisheries in the State of Alaska. Estimates of harvest and effort (angler-days) are unavailable for the King Salmon or Bear River drainages due to low responses rates in the SWHS. Estimates are available for the APAIA as a whole and have averaged 384 king salmon harvested and 4,266 released for all Alaska

Peninsula streams from 2012–2021 (Table 102-2). Harvests of King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek king salmon occur in nearby commercial fisheries as well and harvest of king salmon in the Bear River Section has averaged 204 king salmon from 2012–2021 (Table 102-3).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

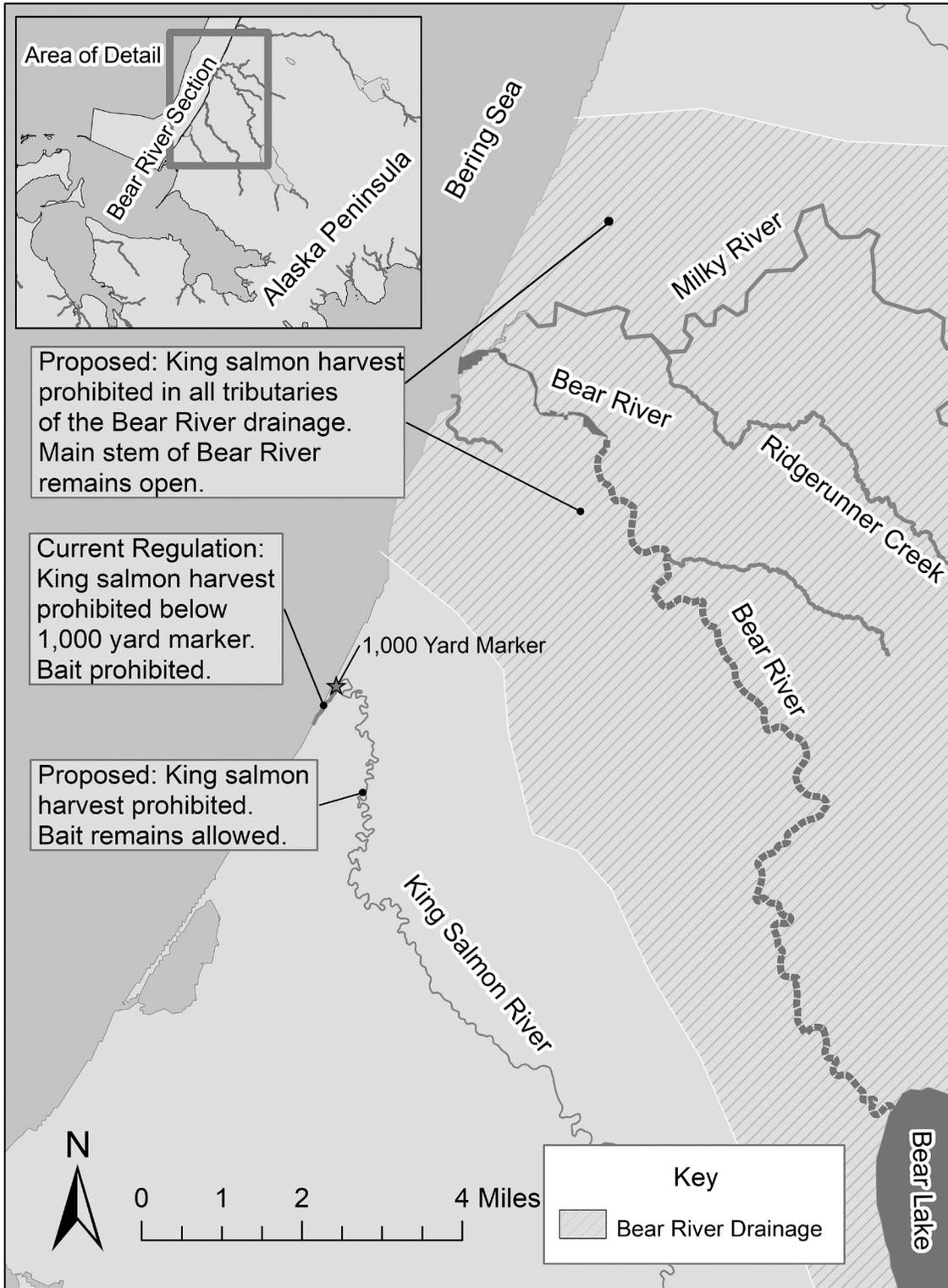


Figure 102-1.—Map of the King Salmon and Bear River drainages with current and proposed sportfishing boundaries.

Table 102-1.—Aerial survey counts of king salmon in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, 2013–2022.

Year	King Salmon River	Ridgerunner Creek
2013	400	600
2014	275	160
2015	200	1,000
2016	1,100	950
2017	900	800
2018	400	1,200
2019	900	820
2020	625	0
2021	800	400
2022	175	0
2013–2022		
Average	578	593

Table 102-2.—SWHS estimates of king salmon harvest and release on the Alaska Peninsula.

Year	Angler-days	Harvest	Release
2012	5,809	399	1,688
2013	5,342	588	833
2014	8,088	249	3,517
2015	6,937	379	4,930
2016	5,549	363	4,000
2017	7,456	549	5,027
2018	10,788	646	11,256
2019	12,764	266	6,380
2020	7,688	16	98
2021	7,703	22	4,928
2012–2021			
Average	7,723	384	4,266

Table 102-3.—Commercial harvests of king salmon in the Bear River Section, 2012–2021.

Year	Harvest
2012	65
2013	42
2014	260
2015	724
2016	109
2017	180
2018	21
2019	278
2020	31
2021	331
2012–2021	
Average	204

**PROPOSAL 103 – Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay.**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Candace Nielsen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would establish a reduced bag limit for sockeye and coho salmon in the freshwater drainages flowing into, and the salt waters of, Cold Bay.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations establish a bag limit of five salmon per day, other than king salmon, which can be any combination of sockeye, coho, pink or chum salmon. There are no seasons or closed waters for sport fishing in the Cold Bay area for salmon other than king salmon.

There is a positive C&T finding for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area with an ANS of 34,000-56,000 salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal would reduce the harvest of sockeye and coho salmon in drainages flowing into Cold Bay as well as in the salt waters of Cold Bay. As written, there are no specific boundary markers proposed for these restrictions; however, Cold Bay proper generally includes all waters inside a line from Thin Point to Vodapoini Point (Figure 103-1). This would include the major road accessible drainages near the community of Cold Bay as well as the Kinzarof Lagoon area and several drainages accessible from the community of King Cove. However, it would not include Frosty Creek, a drainage that is accessible via an unmaintained road from the community of Cold Bay and that flows into Izembek Lagoon on the Bering Sea side of the Alaska Peninsula. Bag limits in Frosty Creek would remain at 5 salmon, other than king salmon, per day and harvest would likely increase in this drainage due to retaining a higher bag limit than nearby drainages.

**BACKGROUND:** There are a number of drainages accessible from the small road system near the community of Cold Bay that support popular sport fisheries for both guided and unguided anglers. Russel, Trout and Frosty Creeks and Mortensens Lagoon and Swan Lake are accessible from the community via established roads or unmaintained trails (Figure 103-1). Anglers target coho salmon primarily, though sockeye salmon are also targeted and to a lesser degree, pink and chum salmon. Mortensens Lagoon and Swan Lake support subsistence fisheries targeting sockeye salmon with coho salmon being harvested in smaller numbers. There are several drainages accessible via road from the community of King Cove with the primary being Delta Creek in Lenard Harbor where a small sport fishery targeting coho and pink salmon occurs. There are also a number of drainages in Kinzarof Lagoon that are not directly road accessible from the either Cold Bay or King Cove but do support small subsistence fisheries targeting sockeye salmon and occasional sport fishing effort targeting sockeye and coho salmon.

Aerial surveys aimed at sockeye and pink salmon counts are conducted in most years on Mortensens Lagoon, and on Russel and Trout Creeks, though a weir was operated briefly in Mortensens Lagoon and foot surveys have been conducted in Trout Creek in some years as well (Tables 103-1–103-3). Since 2008, counts of coho salmon are mostly unavailable from these drainages because department staff have left the Cold Bay area prior to most coho salmon

escapement due to budget constraints. For 2022, however, coho salmon surveys were resumed via airplane and drone.

Russel Creek supports the largest sport fishery in the area and peak coho aerial surveys from 1990 through 2008 averaged 2,955 fish and the recent survey in 2022 was 3,500 coho salmon (Table 103-1). Surveys of Trout Creek from 1990–2008 averaged 950 coho salmon and the 2022 survey was 1,159 coho salmon (Table 103-2). Mortensens Lagoon surveys and weir counts are primarily focused on sockeye salmon and this is the only drainage in the Cold Bay area with an established escapement goal. The SEG for Mortensens Lagoon sockeye salmon is 3,200–6,400 fish and the run has averaged 4,122 fish from 2013–2022 (Table 103-3). While Mortensens Lagoon sockeye salmon runs have been low in recent years (not achieving the SEG from 2018–2021), aerial surveys are only effective in counting peak sockeye salmon escapement when fish are in the upper parts of the drainage versus in the lagoon where they are difficult to see. In addition, department staff have often left the Cold Bay office prior to peak escapement into the parts of the drainage where fish are visible.

Harvest and effort in Cold Bay area sport fisheries is estimated through the SWHS and is only available as a combination of all the Cold Bay area drainages due to the low number of respondents for individual drainages in the area. The combined estimates also include Frosty Creek and other Bering Sea drainages that are road accessible from the community of Cold Bay. SWHS estimates of harvest are not available every year due to low response rates but harvest estimates that are available since 2002 have averaged 301 sockeye salmon and 1,597 coho salmon with an average of 2,542 angler-days expended (Table 103-4). Subsistence harvest information is available for Mortensens Lagoon and the remainder of the Cold Bay area in aggregate, referred to as the North Cold Bay area. From 2012–2021 the average subsistence harvest for Mortensens Lagoon sockeye salmon is 656 fish though harvest has declined significantly over this time from over 1,400 fish in 2012 to just 80 fish in 2021 (Table 103-5). Harvests reflect a shift in subsistence effort from this drainage to other locations over the last 10 years as sockeye salmon runs have declined in the drainage. Much of the subsistence fishing effort recently has occurred at Swan Lake where over 2,000 sockeye salmon were caught in 2020, while in 2021 the harvest of sockeye salmon was 442. Harvest data are only available for this drainage specifically in 2020 and 2021 but are included in the North Cold Bay harvests. From 2012 through 2021 the North Cold Bay subsistence harvest has averaged 376 sockeye salmon (Table 103-5).

Anglers in the Cold Bay area are allowed the use of a single line with no more than two hooks per the statewide methods and means for sport fishing and snagging is closed in freshwaters. Subsistence users are allowed the use of gillnets less than 50 fathoms or beach seines of any length in the Cold Bay area but can only fish saltwaters and specific boundary markers are established near the mouths of many of the drainages in the area. There has been a shift in sport fishing effort for sockeye salmon from Mortensens Lagoon to Swan Lake in recent years in a similar fashion to subsistence fishing effort. Anglers primarily target sockeye salmon in the salt waters near these drainages with snagging gear, though a small amount of effort occurs in the Swan Lake outlet creek with fly fishing gear. While sport fishing effort has shifted between drainages, it is likely to continue to move between drainages because these small drainages tend to have episodic production for sockeye salmon. There is also unlikely to be a significant increase in sockeye salmon effort because the majority of anglers in the Cold Bay area target coho salmon. Increases in fishing effort are likely to come from the guided sport fishery in the area given the low resident population of the area and most guided anglers travel to Cold Bay for dual purpose waterfowl and

coho salmon fishing trips which occur after the majority of the sockeye salmon runs in the area are over or are unavailable to the sport fishery. Angler effort has not substantially increased over the last 20 years, according to SWHS estimates; however, coho salmon harvests seem to be generally increasing in the area, though are highly variable between years. From 2002–2011, coho salmon harvests averaged 1,306 coho salmon and from 2012–2021, they averaged 2,120; however, estimates are only available in 6 years since 2011 (Table 103-4).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

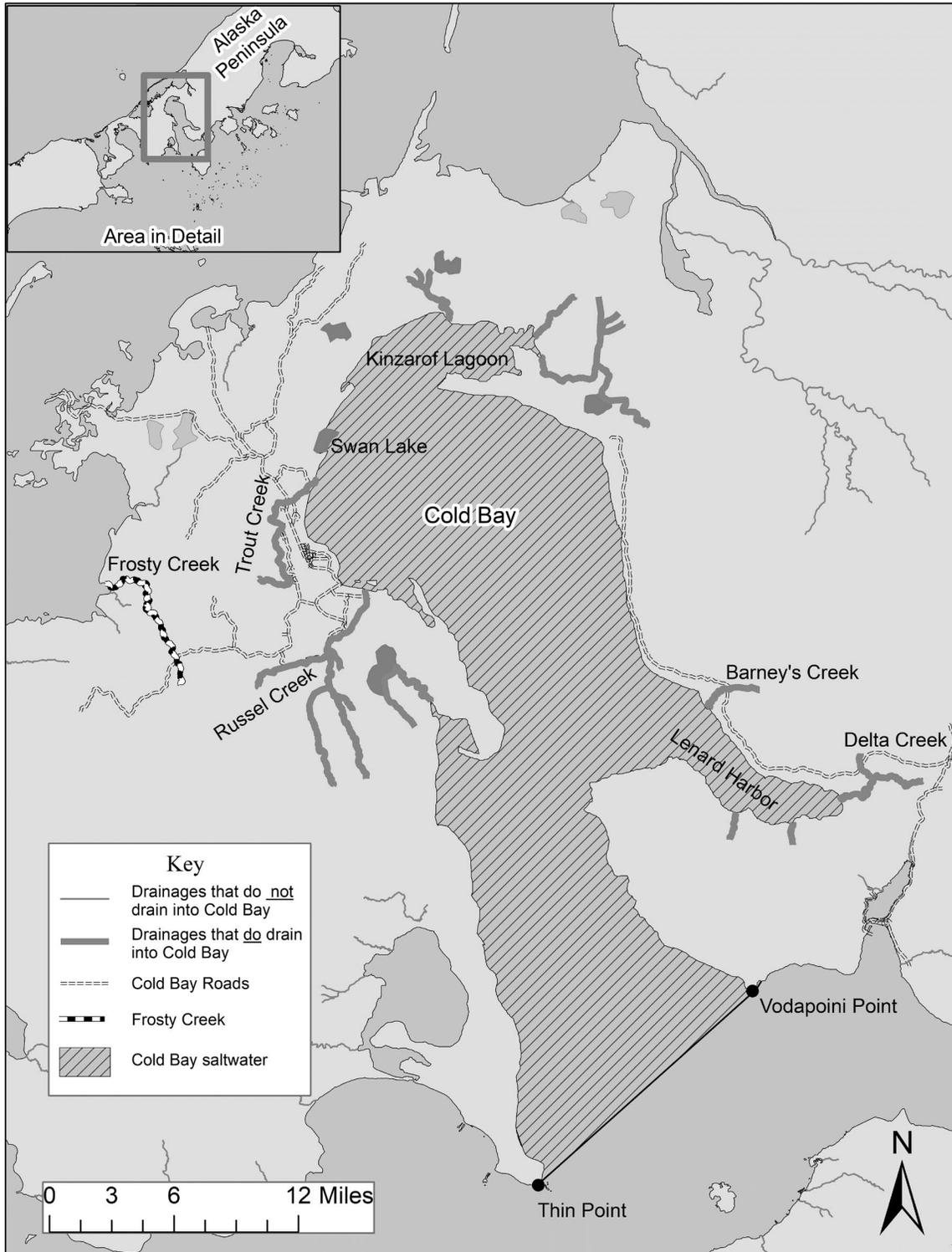


Figure 103-1.—Map of the Cold Bay Area and drainages flowing into Cold Bay and Cold Bay salt waters.

Table 103-1.-Coho salmon counts from aerial surveys of Russel Creek, 1990–2022.

Date	Year	Coho
9/21	1990	2,200
10/3	1991	400
9/24	1992	1,000
10/1	1993	2,400
8/28	1994	0
9/4	1995	0
10/7	1996	1,600
10/3	1997	2,000
9/27	1998	2,000
10/1	1999	1,000
9/25	2000	4,100
9/17	2001	4,100
9/17	2002	8,200
9/23	2003	4,800
9/22	2004	6,400
9/20	2005	4,900
9/14	2006	2,350
9/12	2007	6,100
9/8	2008	2,600
9/12	2009	0
8/25	2011	0
9/11	2012	0
8/28	2013	0
9/5	2014	600
9/11	2015	100
8/30	2016	0
8/19	2017	0
8/19	2018	0
8/26	2019	0
9/2	2020	1,200
8/11	2021	0
9/5	2022	3,500
1990–2008		
Average		2,955

Table 103-2.-Coho salmon counts from aerial and foot surveys of Trout Creek, 1990–2022.

Date	Year <sup>a</sup>	Coho
9/21	1990	700
9/19	1991	200
9/24	1992	1100
10/1	1993	350
8/28	1994	900
9/10	1995	200
10/7	1996	1040
8/27	1997	600
9/27	1998	850
10/6	1999	440
9/28	2000	1225
9/28	2001	1736
9/27	2002	1725
9/23	2003	1618
8/28	2004	1620
9/20	2005	900
9/12	2007	1500
8/29	2008	400
9/18	2012	20
7/26	2021	0
9/19	2022	1,159
1990–2008		
Average		950

<sup>a</sup>. Foot surveys conducted in 1998 and 2000-2002.

Table 103-3.–Peak aerial survey and weir counts of sockeye salmon at Mortensens Lagoon, 1990–2022.

Year <sup>a</sup>	Escapement
1990	3,800
1991	2,000
1992	5,700
1993	4,500
1994	4,300
1995	7,900
1996	900
1997	3,100
1998	3,400
1999	2,100
2000	2,700
2001	4,266
2002	5,209
2003	16,804
2004	7,211
2005	21,703
2006	14,688
2007	6,200
2008	5,600
2009	25,000
2010	6,600
2011	500
2012	5,000
2013	4,000
2014	500
2015	20
2016	13,000
2017	15,500
2018	1,200
2019	800
2020	800
2021	1,500
2022	3,900
2013–2022 Average	4,122

<sup>a</sup> Counts from 2001-2006 are weir counts, all others are aerial surveys.

Table 103-4.–Cold Bay area sport harvest and effort, 2002–2021.

Year <sup>a</sup>	Angler-days	Harvest	
		Sockeye	Coho
2002	1,659	154	521
2003	2,182	0	1,290
2004	1,783	790	887
2005	2,114	84	1,294
2007	3,168	230	917
2008	2,331	0	1,773
2009	4,588	1,351	2,421
2010	3,128	358	1,948
2011	1,712	460	703
2014	2,254	0	1,924
2017	2,248	26	2,198
2018	4,004	83	3,241
2019	3,174	239	2,015
2020	1,236	445	1,222
Average			
2002–2011	2,518	381	1,306
2012–2020	2,583	159	2,120

<sup>a</sup> SWHS estimates are unavailable in 2006, 2012–2013, 2015–2016 and 2021 due to too few responses to the survey.

Table 103-5.–Subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon at Mortensen's Lagoon and the North Cold Bay area, 2012–2021.

Year	Mortensen's	
	Lagoon	North Cold Bay <sup>a</sup>
2012	1,407	–
2013	899	407
2014	1,461	1,218
2015	797	806
2016	904	981
2017	401	418
2018	192	256
2019	264	160
2020	150	2,183
2021	80	442
2012–2021		
Average	656	763

<sup>a</sup> Includes Kinzarof, Swan Lake, and other Cold Bay harvest North of Old Man Lagoon

**PROPOSAL 104 – Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would rescind sport fishing closures in the Swanson Lagoon drainage and reopen fishing for sockeye salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Sport fishing for salmon is closed in the Swanson Lagoon drainage January 1 through July 31, and sport fishing for sockeye salmon is closed in the drainage year-round.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Areawide bag and possession limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands Area (APAIA) would apply, with a bag limit of 5 salmon other than king salmon, and 10 salmon other than king salmon in possession. Given the isolated nature of the drainage there would likely be little or even no increased harvest of Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon if these regulations were repealed.

**BACKGROUND:** Current regulations regarding Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon are ineffective in conserving the sockeye salmon run due to environmental conditions that annually impede salmon migration. These regulations were established in conjunction with the Stock of Concern designation during the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting. The Stock of Concern status for this drainage and corresponding action plan was rescinded in conjunction with the sockeye salmon escapement goal at the 2019 Board of Fisheries meeting in recognition that environmental conditions in the drainage preclude effective management of this stock.

The Swanson Lagoon drainage is annually impaired by a berm that builds up at the mouth of the lagoon by wind and wave action. Timing of the creation of a channel through this berm does not always coincide with timing of sockeye salmon migration, rendering regulations regarding the sport fishery ineffective in conservation of the sockeye salmon run. There is also very little, if any, sport fishing effort or harvest in the area due to the remote location of the drainage. Sport fishing harvest and effort estimates are unavailable through the SWHS due to low response rates for this area and no reports of anglers fishing this area have been received by the department.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 2: CHIGNIK AREA SALMON (15 PROPOSALS)**

### *Chignik Area Salmon Management (15 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 105** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.

#### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to reflect the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal changing from separate early and late run goals to a single goal. Suggested changes are as follows:

#### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan**

(a) The department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Chignik Area in accordance with the guidelines set out in the management plan under this section, The goal of this management plan is to allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Chignik Area salmon stocks, and to achieve the department’s biological escapement **goal** [GOALS] for the **Chignik River system** [BOTH BLACK LAKE (EARLY-RUN) AND CHIGNIK LAKE (LATE-RUN)] sockeye salmon and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and king salmon.

(b) In the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently based on escapement objectives for the Chignik [LAKES’ SYSTEM] **River system** sockeye salmon runs, except that

(1) the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery when 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River; however, if the department determines that a strong buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and that 20,000 sockeye salmon will escape into the Chignik River, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery before 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River;

[(2) DURING THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE EARLY-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON TO THAT OF THE LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON, USUALLY LATE JUNE THROUGH MID-JULY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL OPEN AND CLOSE, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, FISHING PERIODS TO HARVEST SURPLUS EARLY-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON ESCAPEMENT OBJECTIVES;]

[(3) FROM THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, DESCRIBED IN

(2) OF THIS SUBSECTION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14,]

**(2) from June 1 until September 14,**

(A) the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, based on the Chignik [Lakes'] **River** system sockeye salmon escapement [GOALS] **goal**;

(B) the department shall manage the commercial fishery to allow for the passage of at least 20,000 sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to [LATE RUN] **Chignik River system** sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an inriver harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least 10,000 fish in August and 10,000 fish from September 1 through September 30;

(C) the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs; and

[4] **(3)** beginning September 15, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, may be no more than 48 hours per week, and shall be based on the department's evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the subsistence needs for [CHIGNIK LAKE LATE-SEASON] **Chignik River System** sockeye salmon.

(c) In the Eastern District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving [THE BLACK LAKE] **Chignik River system** sockeye salmon escapement goals;

[(2) FROM APPROXIMATELY JUNE 26 THROUGH JULY 8,

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EVALUATE THE STRENGTH OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON LATE RUN; AND

(B) IN ORDER TO CONTINUE MANAGING THE BLACK LAKE SOCKEYE SALMON HARVEST AND ESCAPEMENT, WHILE ASSESSING THE CHIGNIK LAKE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT WILL, IN THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION, BE DISALLOWED OR SEVERLY RESTRICTED;]

[3] **(2)** [FROM THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, DESCRIBED IN (b)(2) OF THIS SECTION,] **from July 1**, until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik [LAKES'] **River** system sockeye salmon;

[4] **(3)** after July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik [LAKE] **River system** sockeye salmon run.

(d) From June 1 through July 5, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District; during this time period the Perryville District may open for no more than

three 48-hour fishing periods with a minimum closure of 48 hours between each period; beginning July 6, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, except that,

[(1) FROM APPROXIMATELY LATE JUNE TO MID-JULY (TRANSITION PERIOD),

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EVALUATE THE STRENGTH OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON LATE RUN; AND

(B) IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS THE CHIGNIK LAKE RUN STRENGTH, THE DEPARTMENT MAY KEEP CLOSED OR SEVERELY RESTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT, EXCEPT THE INNER CASTLE CAPE SUBSECTION, AND IN THE PERRYVILLE DISTRICT;]

[2] **(1)** from [THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, DESCRIBED IN (b)(2) OF THIS SECTION] **July 6** until July 31, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik [Lake] **River system** sockeye salmon run; from July 22 through July 31,

(A) repealed 3/29/2008;

(B) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing in the following terminal harvest areas:

(i) those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long., to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long.;

(ii) waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' W. long., to Kupreanof Peninsula; and

(iii) those portions of the Chignik Bay and Central Districts known locally as Jack's Box, which consists of those waters east of 158° 15.36' W. long., south of 56° 20' N. lat., and west of 158° 10' W. long.;

[3] **(2)** after July 31, the fishing periods shall be managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik [LAKE] **River system** sockeye salmon run.

(e) Repealed 5/31/2019

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** See 5 AAC 15.357 and previous section.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** The *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) would be amended to reference the new single escapement goal. Management and board generated allocative criteria would remain unchanged. This would primarily alter periods of fishing from late June to mid-July during what was considered the transition period where closures were often necessary at the start of the late run even when the early run sockeye salmon was meeting or exceeding escapement objectives or vice versa. Managing for a single run goal using average run timing (Figure 105-1) ensures adequate sockeye salmon escapement to both Black Lake and Chignik Lake.

**BACKGROUND:** Each stock of Chignik sockeye salmon has maintained its own escapement goal since 1968. When these goals were initially established, the majority of early-run fish spawned and reared in Black Lake and the majority of late-run fish spawned and reared in Chignik Lake. However, morphological changes to the Chignik watershed that occurred around the 1960s have irrecoverably reduced the volume of Black Lake. While the changes to Black Lake are not indicative of poorer rearing conditions, Black Lake habitat may prove more variable for juvenile sockeye salmon. Recent findings by the US Army Corps of Engineers have indicated the watershed stabilized in 2000, yet studies initiated in 2011 identified that early-run juvenile sockeye salmon from Black Lake are driven to rear throughout the entire watershed in response to climate. Similarly, late-run juveniles can outcompete early-run juveniles when both stocks co-occur in Chignik Lake. With watershed morphology stabilized and greater variability in recent climatic conditions, it is likely that early-run juvenile sockeye salmon will continue to utilize the entire Chignik watershed in response to dynamic rearing conditions in Black Lake. The 2020 assessment of spawner-recruit relationships indicated increased density dependence and lower productivity for both runs since watershed stabilization, suggesting the adaptive rearing strategies of early-run juveniles may have increased intraspecific competition in Chignik Lake, and possibly throughout lower reaches of the watershed, systemically influencing productivity. Because of the broadscale freshwater habitat use of early-run fish and increased mixed-stock interactions between juvenile Chignik sockeye salmon, the department determined productivity would be better measured by a single Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal. A single escapement goal reflects the productivity of the Chignik watershed as a connected habitat network for sockeye salmon.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. These changes would align the management plan to the change in Chignik system escapement goal the Department made prior to this meeting. There are management plans in both the Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas that reference the current Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals. These plans will also require changes to reflect the escapement goal change.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

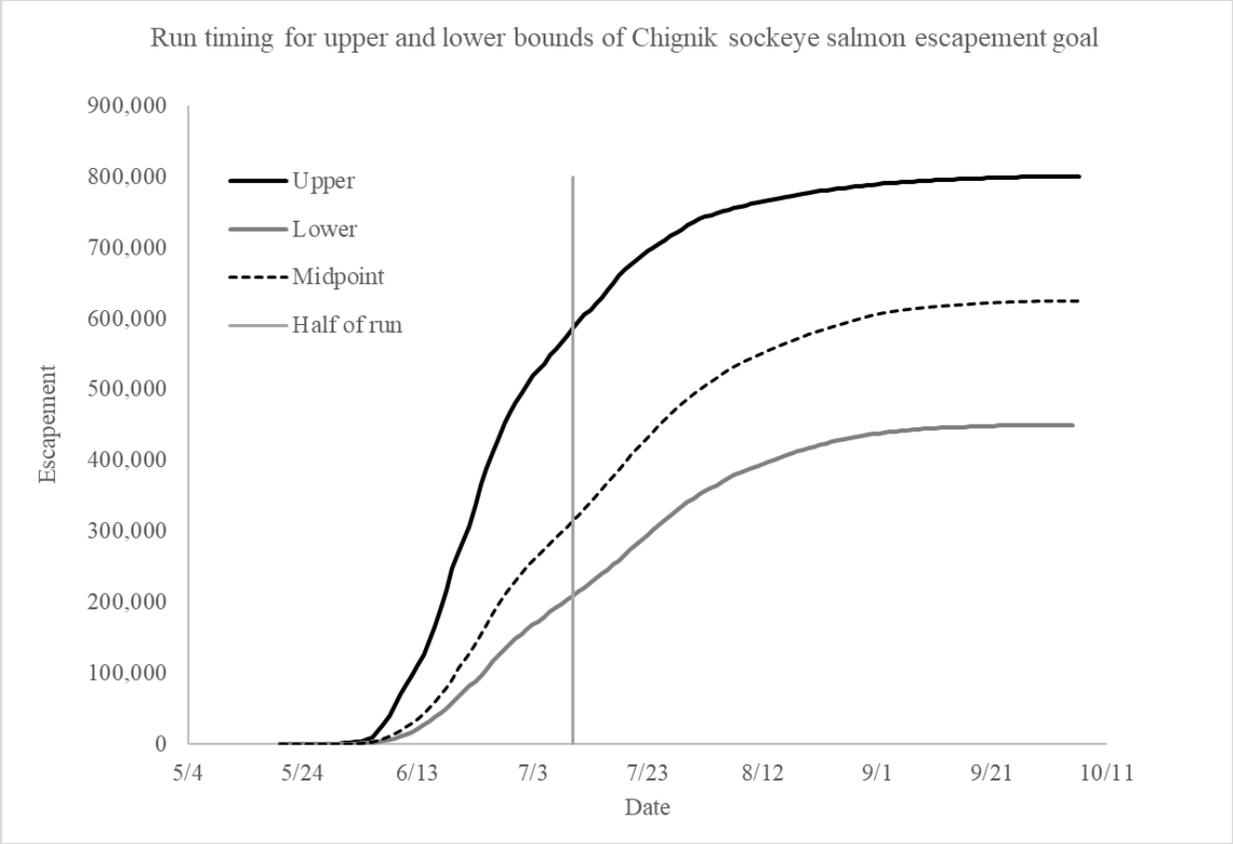


Figure 105-1.—Chignik River system sockeye salmon run timing curve.

**PROPOSAL 106** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to increase inriver escapement of sockeye salmon prior to opening a commercial fishery by emergency order.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Timothy Murphy.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend the *Chignik Salmon Management Plan* to require the passage of 40,000 sockeye salmon through the Chignik weir prior to the first commercial harvest period.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 if at least 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into Chignik River, or if it is determined that a large buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and at least 20,000 sockeye salmon are expected to escape into the Chignik River.

There is a positive C&T finding for salmon and other finfish in the Chignik Area, with an ANS of 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon, 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon in Chignik Bay and the Central and Eastern Districts, combined.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would delay the first fishing period, even if returns are projecting to be ahead of the average run timing and the run appears strong, which may result in a loss in harvest opportunity and sockeye salmon passage in excess of the upper bound of the escapement goal in the Chignik River system. In the case that the Chignik River sockeye salmon run begins weak, this proposal would not change management because it is unlikely that a commercial fishing period would occur before 40,000 sockeye salmon have passed through the Chignik weir under current regulations. Subsistence users may have more opportunity to harvest sockeye salmon early in the season if the department could not open a commercial salmon fishing period prior to passage of 40,000 sockeye salmon through the Chignik weir.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to the Chignik cooperative (co-op) fishery (2002–2005), a set of criteria were in place allowing the fishery to open if the June 12 escapement objective of 40,000 fish was met. If the June 12 escapement objective was not met, the fishery would remain closed until a subsequent escapement objective was met. These objectives were used to assure escapement throughout the course of the run based on historical run timing. With the advent of the Chignik co-op fishery, there were concerns that the fleet would not be able to harvest enough fish early in the season, and excess escapement would result. In December 2002, the board changed the opening criteria to reflect these concerns by allowing the fishery to open before the June 12 escapement objective of 40,000 fish was met. In 2003 and 2004, the co-op fishery opened to commercial salmon fishing well before the Chignik weir escapement estimate reached 40,000 fish. In November 2004, the board modified the opening criteria in response to concerns from subsistence users who stated that they were unable to harvest enough salmon for subsistence uses after the June 12 escapement of at least 40,000 fish was removed from regulation. The board modified the language of the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to begin commercial salmon fishing when at least 20,000 sockeye salmon had passed the Chignik weir or were expected to pass the weir. After the Chignik co-op fishery was ended by court action, the intent of regulatory language was to reflect fishery management similar to the years prior to the co-op. Regulatory language for 5 AAC 15.357 “(1) was changed from “shall” to “may” at the 2013 Alaska Board of Fisheries

meeting to prevent unwarranted commercial salmon fishing period during years of weak returns. None of the last 15 commercial salmon seasons (2008–2022) have had a commercial salmon fishing period prior to reaching an escapement of 20,000 sockeye salmon, while three of the last 15 seasons have had a commercial salmon fishing period prior to reaching 40,000 sockeye salmon escapement (Table 106-1).

In 1993, The board found that salmon in the Chignik Management Area support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.466). The board specified amounts of salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in each CMA as follows: for Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts combined are 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon; 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon; 100–150 king salmon; and 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon. In the Perryville and Western Districts combined, the ANS findings are 1,400–2,600 coho and 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho salmon (5 AAC 01.466 (a)(b)).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the inability to open a fishery when desired escapement is in the lagoon due to conservation and management concerns posed by loss of this tool.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 106-1.–Date and escapement of first commercial fishing period each year within the CMA.

Year	Emergency order (EO) date		Sockeye salmon escapement day before EO	
	Issued	Effective	Issued	Effective
2008	6.22	6.24	183,938	229,705
2009	6.19	6.20	151,187	191,181
2010	6.15	6.16	79,955	113,612
2011	6.4	6.5	23,777	41,569
2012	6.6	6.8	18,095	36,791
2013	6.4	6.6	19,340	23,193
2014	7.11	7.12	413,668	435,409
2015	6.23	6.24	246,021	285,524
2016	6.3	6.4	21,258	30,020
2017	6.8	6.10	46,931	74,408
2018 <sup>a</sup>	7.3	7.7	163,465	174,095
2019 <sup>a</sup>	7.2	7.6	197,994	233,489
2020	–	–	–	–
2021 <sup>a</sup>	7.9	7.12	229,735	254,246
2022	7.8	7.11	377,138	438,557

*Note:* Date issued is the day the first commercial salmon fishing period was announced, while date effective is the first day a commercial salmon fishing period began. Escapement values are cumulative sockeye salmon counts at 11:59 P.M. the day before fishing periods were issued or effective.

<sup>a</sup> First commercial period was not targeted towards sockeye salmon.

**PROPOSAL 107 – Modify the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow more commercial fishing time by implementing commercial salmon fishing periods regardless of sockeye salmon escapement.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Area M Seiners Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** From June 1 to July 5, this would require at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length in the Western and Perryville Districts, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection. The Western District would be limited to two weekly 48-hour fishing periods. Additionally, the Perryville District could be open for up to two weekly 48-hour fishing periods instead of being limited to three 48-hour openers. Lastly this proposal removes language requiring Western and Perryville Districts to only be opened concurrently with Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan*, (5 AAC 15.357) commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all five districts of the Chignik Management Area (CMA). The Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently by regulation during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District may also open and close concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. From June 1 through July 5, the Perryville District may also open and close concurrently with the aforementioned areas; however, fishing time is limited to a maximum of three 48-hour fishing periods throughout this entire duration, each of which must be separated by a closure of at least 48 hours.

Starting July 6, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts may be allowed if the Chignik River interim escapement objectives are expected to be met and surplus Chignik River sockeye salmon are available for harvest. From mid-July until July 31, fishing periods are based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik sockeye salmon run. After July 31, fishing periods shall be managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik sockeye salmon run.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would create a new, mixed stock focused fishery from June 1 through July 5 in the Western and Perryville Districts. At least two 33-hour commercial test fisheries in the Perryville and Western Districts, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, would be required during this period. Focusing on mixed stock periods could increase the overall amount of harvest and duration of commercial fishing periods by reducing the proportion of Chignik-bound fish being caught. This may reduce the amount of time where no commercial salmon fishing is occurring in the CMA, particularly if the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, were closed and/or if the Chignik sockeye salmon run is of average or poor strength. While likely increasing the number of days the CMA is open, this may reduce the number and duration of commercial periods in the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts from June 1 through July 5. In the case of a strong Chignik sockeye salmon run where commercial fishing periods would already be open in all districts under current regulations, this would reduce the amount of time CMA fishermen are

able to fish in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and potentially increase the amount of time CMA fishermen are able to fish in the Perryville District.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, the Western and Perryville Districts have remained closed to commercial salmon fishing during June and early July when Chignik early-run sockeye salmon transit the districts. These districts typically opened during early to mid-July largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks, although the fleet actively targets sockeye salmon in these districts as well. The Western and Perryville Districts account for the majority of the post-June coho, pink, and chum salmon harvests in the CMA.

In 2008, the board adopted a proposal with a 3-year sunset provision, allowing up to two 48-hour fishing periods separated by at least 48 hours in the Western District from June 1 to July 5. The intent of this proposal was to increase the area open to commercial salmon fishing to target Chignik-bound early-run sockeye salmon. In 2011, the proposal was again before the board, this time without a sunset clause. The proposal was adopted, and the two 48-hour fishing periods became regulation. At that time, no management concerns with the two 48-hour fishing periods were noted by the department for the 2008–2010 commercial salmon seasons.

At the February 2019 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting a proposal was adopted stating that the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, may open concurrently with the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District from June 1 through July 5. This proposal also allowed the Perryville District to do the same, but for a maximum of three 48-hour openers separated with minimum closures of at least 48 hours. Previously, the Perryville District could not open to commercial salmon fishing before July 6.

The Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) study conducted between 2006 and 2008 collected the majority of sockeye salmon tissue samples in July of each year, with the exception of additional end-of-June samples collected in 2008. July harvest tend to be dominated (~55%) by Chignik stocks, but considerable abundance of Bristol Bay and East of WASSIP stocks were also present. Tagging studies were very limited in the Western and Perryville Districts and did not recover any tagged fish in the CMA.

In the fall of 2012, the results of WASSIP were released. The results of the WASSIP study indicated that harvests in the Western and Perryville Districts were dominated by different reporting groups from 2006 through 2008; despite variable numbers of sockeye salmon harvested, the harvest rate of sockeye salmon bound for Chignik remained relatively stable (tables 107-1, 107-2). Samples for the time period that pertain to adoption of this proposal were acquired in only one year, 2008, after the board first approved the two 48-hour June fishing periods. In that year, 20,420 sockeye salmon were harvested in late June, with 49% bound for the Chignik River watershed and the majority of the remaining fish bound for Bristol Bay (36%) and to regions east of the WASSIP study area (10%; Table 107-3). In the Western and Perryville Districts, harvest rates, or the fractional harvest of a region's total run, on stocks bound for areas outside of Chignik, were well below 1% for all reporting groups in all years and time periods covered by the WASSIP study, except for South Peninsula (3.9%) in 2008 (Table 107-2). The department does not have reliable salmon stock identification information for the time period from June 1 through June 24.

Western District catch per unit effort data in June may be of little value in managing the sockeye salmon run bound for the Chignik River watershed since Western District harvests in June may be composed of a relatively high percentage of fish bound for other regions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The Department notes that the minimum requirement for two 33-hour openings in these areas is unlikely to create any conservation or management concerns within the CMA. If this proposal is adopted, the department recommends changing language from *shall* to *may* to increase flexibility in management, particularly when the Chignik sockeye salmon run appears to be weak. The Department also notes that there will be no inseason assessment of stock composition data from the two 33-hour openings to inform inseason management decisions.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Traditional lagoon fishermen may feel inclined to acquire or update gear to better fish in outside districts. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 107-1.—WASSIP estimates of regional reporting group-specific sockeye salmon harvest, in numbers of fish and percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest, in the Western and Perryville Districts for all strata, by year, 2006–2008.

Region	2006		2007		2008	
	Harvest	Percent of total	Harvest	Percent of total	Harvest	Percent of total
Norton Sound	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Kuskokwim Bay	0	0%	2,179	2%	1,233	2%
Bristol Bay	430	1%	10,218	8%	22,410	30%
North Peninsula	2	0%	2,892	2%	5,096	7%
South Peninsula	0	0%	0	0%	8,440	11%
East of WASSIP	22,219	32%	34,620	29%	9,934	13%
Chignik	46,918	67%	70,397	59%	27,740	37%
Total	69,569	100%	120,306	100%	74,853	100%

Table 107-2.—WASSIP estimates of regional reporting group-specific sockeye salmon harvest rate in the Western and Perryville Districts for all strata, by year, 2006–2008.

Region	2006	2007	2008
	Harvest rate	Harvest rate	Harvest rate
Norton Sound	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kuskokwim Bay	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Bristol Bay	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
North Peninsula	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
South Peninsula	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%
Chignik	2.0%	4.3%	1.8%

Table 107-3.–WASSIP estimates of regional reporting group-specific sockeye salmon harvest, in numbers of fish and percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest, in the Western District, in June 2008.

Regional reporting group	June 24–June 30	
	Harvest	Percent of total
Norton Sound	0	0%
Kuskokwim Bay	773	4%
Bristol Bay	7,269	36%
North Peninsula	0	0%
South Peninsula	336	2%
East of WASSIP	1,960	10%
Chignik	10,082	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,420</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 107-4.– Harvest from June 1 through July 5 in the Western and Perryville Districts excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection.

Year	Sockeye	Pink	Chum
2008	18,199	30,132	5,316
2009	64,844	256,175	47,692
2010	7,379	3,715	4,634
2011	3,081	11,276	2,176
2012	65,594	7,181	19,076
2013	40,476	23,201	27,152
2014	0	0	0
2015	44,029	105,164	17,650
2016	18,172	2,331	4,941
2017	10,810	113,654	52,295
2018	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0

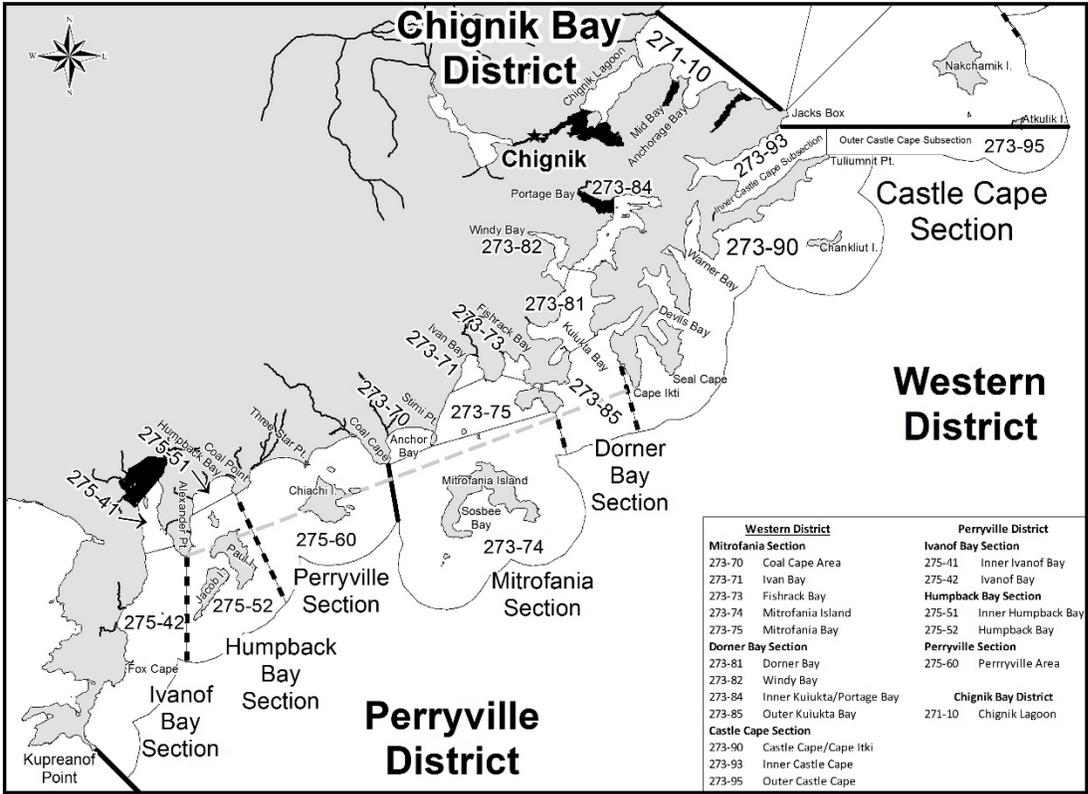


Figure 107-1.—Map of the Western and Perryville Districts.

**PROPOSAL 108 – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to implement commercial salmon fishing periods in June.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kodiak Seiners Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would require, from June 1 through June 25, a minimum of two 33-hour commercial test fishing periods in the Eastern District. This would also add language to the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* stating that the commissioner may open the Eastern District to one commercial test fishing period, not exceeding 48 hours per week, from the end of the transition period until July 31, and after July 31, the Eastern District may open one commercial test fishing period per week of 57 hours in length. The proposal does not address the requirement for the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, to open concurrently during the month of June.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), once 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped, or are expected to escape when a strong buildup exists in Chignik Lagoon, commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all five districts of the CMA. The Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently by regulation during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District may also open and close concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape subsection of the Western District. From June 1 through July 5, the Perryville District may also open and close concurrently with the aforementioned areas; however, fishing time is limited to a maximum of three 48-hour fishing periods, each of which must be separated by a closure of at least 48 hours.

During July, portions of the Eastern District are primarily managed on pink and chum salmon abundance. The first post-transition commercial fishing period may occur as early as July 12 and may be extended based on pink and chum salmon harvest compared to historical records, pink and chum salmon escapement, and Chignik River watershed sockeye salmon escapement. If Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon escapement is lower than expected, then fishing periods in terminal areas in the Eastern District may be announced via emergency order to target pink and chum salmon, potentially closing on short notice if substantial numbers of sockeye salmon are harvested.

During August and September, the Eastern District is managed based on local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. Fishing times and areas are based on ADF&G in season assessment of the run strength. During August, inner bay fisheries may occur concurrently with the Western and Perryville Districts in areas with adequate pink and chum salmon abundance to warrant fisheries, with possible extensions depending on escapement and harvest levels. Districtwide openings will not be allowed unless Chignik River sockeye salmon interim escapement objectives, including the inriver run goal, are expected to be met and overall pink and chum salmon abundance is sufficient to meet Eastern District escapement objectives.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would require at least two 33-hour commercial test fisheries in the Eastern District between June 1 and June 25. Under current regulation, this would also require commercial salmon periods in Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District. When the sockeye salmon run is weak, the 33-hour periods would harvest sockeye salmon needed

to maintain escapement levels. Additionally, this proposal may conflict with current regulations requiring the passage or expectation for passage of 20,000 sockeye salmon prior to the first commercial fishing period. The additional language stating the commissioner may open commercial test fishing periods would not impact current management because the department may already open test fishing periods if warranted.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, the majority of fishing effort in the Eastern District occurs during June, when fishers are targeting early-run Chignik River sockeye salmon as they enter the CMA. During July, the Eastern District has been primarily managed on pink and chum salmon after the transition period. During years of low late-run sockeye salmon escapement, fishing periods in the terminal areas have been announced in order to target pink and chum salmon.

The WASSIP study conducted between 2006 and 2008 sought to identify, in part, the proportion of Chignik sockeye salmon present in geographic areas. WASSIP data were collected from all districts within the CMA except the Eastern District. Based on historical June tagging studies, sockeye salmon tagged in the Eastern District were recovered in Chignik Lagoon, Cook Inlet, and Bristol Bay. Relative to the Central District and Cape Igvak, the stock composition of sockeye salmon in the Eastern District is likely variable depending on run timing.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. As written, this proposal would require commercial fishing periods in areas that would otherwise be closed if the Chignik sockeye salmon run is weak and not meeting escapement objectives.

Additionally, if the proposal intends to limit commercial fishing in the Eastern District after June, due to significant fishing time restrictions, this proposal would significantly inhibit the department's ability to manage local pink and chum salmon stocks in the Eastern District and would likely result in loss of harvest opportunity on pink and chum salmon.

If this proposal were to be adopted, the department recommends that conflicts requiring concurrent openings with other districts be addressed.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 108-1.-Eastern District commercial salmon harvest from 6/1-6/25.

Year	Sockeye salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0
2010	41,814	3,714	5,838
2011	90,940	3,582	18,741
2012	38,765	1,240	5,138
2013	115,196	3,453	25,121
2014	0	0	0
2015	C	C	C
2016	36,220	8,700	21,431
2017	109,128	16,151	29,587
2018	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0

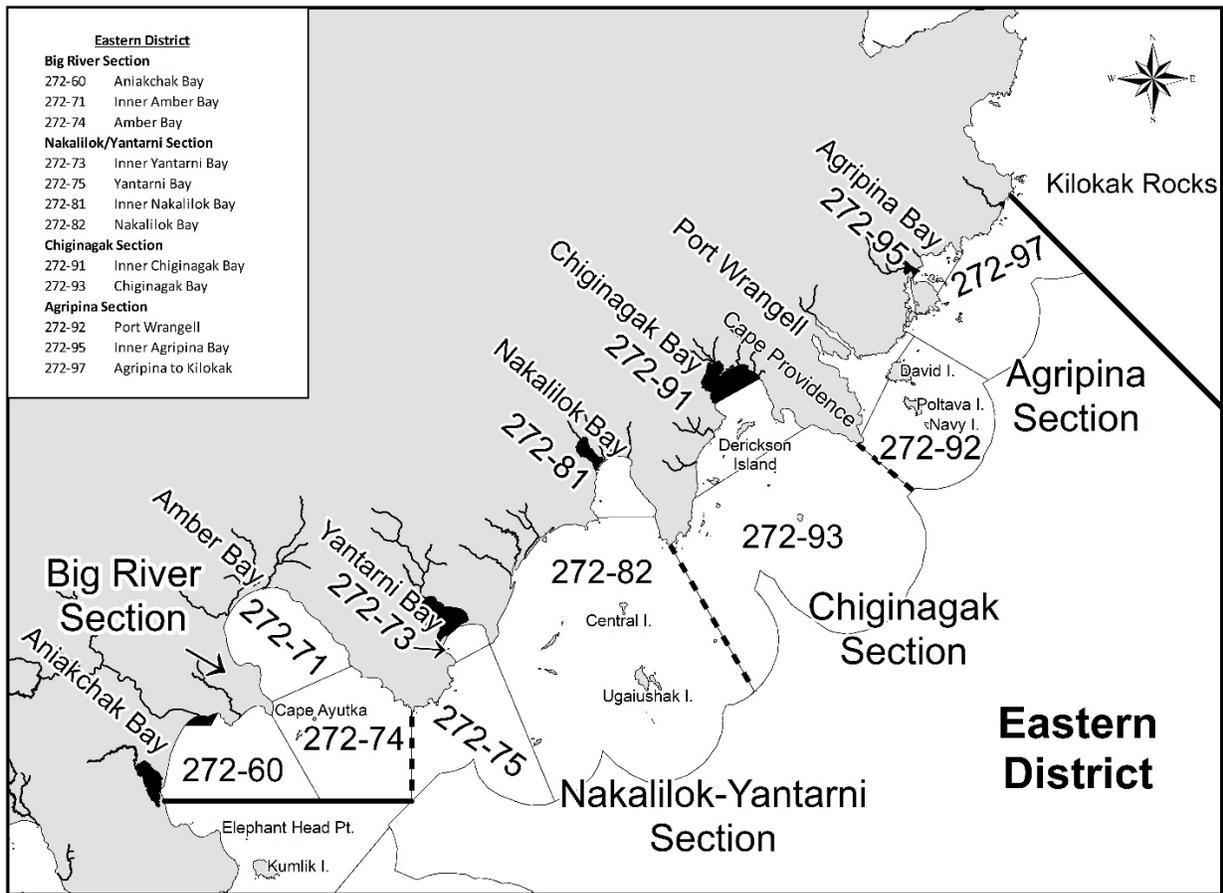


Figure 108-1.-Map of Eastern District.

**PROPOSAL 109** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to apply mandatory closures in the Chignik Management Area, repeal the inriver run goal in August and September and remove the 48 hour maximum weekly fishing period in September.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would require a weekly 56-hour closure from 10:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 a.m. Monday in the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District from August 1 until September 15.

This proposal removes the Chignik River sockeye salmon in-river run goal (IRRG) of 10,000 fish in August and 10,000 fish in September.

This proposal also removes the 48-hour maximum weekly fishing periods restriction beginning September 15 in the aforementioned districts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Currently according to the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 15.357)*, in August and September the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape subsection of the Western District, is managed based on the Chignik River watershed sockeye salmon run strength.

Starting September 15, commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts are based upon the evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and late-season subsistence needs. Fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts are limited to a maximum of 48 hours, divided up into as many as four periods per week.

Additionally, the commercial fishery is managed to allow for the passage of at least 20,000 sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an in-river harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least 10,000 fish in August and 10,000 fish in September.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This may reduce fishing time in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from August 1 until September 15 by adding a required 56-hour weekly closure. This may result in less harvest opportunity if the Chignik sockeye salmon run escapement goals are being met and could result in possible over-escapement. Conversely, if the Chignik sockeye salmon escapement goal has already been achieved but sockeye salmon escapement has significantly slowed down so that sockeye salmon passage would not project 10,000 fish in August or September, then this may allow for additional fishing time in the aforementioned districts where longer closures would have otherwise occurred in order to meet the IRRG. Lastly, removing the maximum 48-hour weekly opening restriction to commercial fishing time after September 15 would potentially provide more opportunity to harvest coho and late-run sockeye salmon if a market is available.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1998, the board implemented an escapement management objective of 25,000 sockeye salmon for the September 1–15 period, in addition to existing late-run escapement objectives, to address subsistence concerns over the late run.

In 1993, the board found that salmon in the Chignik Management Area support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.466). The board specified amounts of salmon are

reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in each CMA as follows: for Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts combined are 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon, 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon, 100–150 king salmon, and 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon. In the Perryville and Western Districts combined, the ANS findings are 1,400–2,600 coho and 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho salmon (5 AAC 01.466 (a)(b)).

From 1997 to 2001, the August escapement objective was 50,000 sockeye salmon and the average escapement was 79,000 fish (Table 109-1). During the first three years of the Chignik Area Cooperative Purse Seine Salmon Fishery (2002–2004), the August sockeye salmon escapement estimates averaged approximately 58,000 fish. In 2004, subsistence fishermen reported difficulty in harvesting late-run sockeye salmon. The board agreed that additional actions were necessary for subsistence needs since the August escapement from 2002–2004 was about 20,000 fish less than during prior years. As a result, the board adopted an escapement objective of an additional 25,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik River in August. The August escapement objective totaled 75,000 sockeye salmon with the adoption of this proposal (50,000 fish escapement objective and 25,000 additional fish for subsistence needs).

In 2007, the board reclassified the two 25,000 fish management objectives as an IRRG, and the total (50,000 fish) was added to the lower bound of the late-run escapement goal. At the 2013 Chignik board meeting, the board clarified that the intent of the 25,000 fish during August was in addition to escapement objective needs in August. The IRRG was also officially put into regulation (5 AAC 15.357(b)(3)(B)). At the 2016 board meeting, subsistence users stated that it was becoming more difficult to attain late-season subsistence fish in the fall and early winter months. The board increased the IRRG to 75,000 fish and redistributed it as 25,000 sockeye salmon in August and 50,000 sockeye salmon in September. Prior to the 2018 season, the department adjusted the interim escapement objectives for the Chignik River to more closely reflect the average run timing.

In 2019, the number of sockeye salmon required to meet the IRRG for the late sockeye salmon run was reduced from 75,000 fish to 20,000 fish. Of the 20,000 sockeye salmon required for the IRRG, 10,000 fish are required to pass the weir in August in addition to the minimum escapement objectives, while the remainder are required to escape during September.

Since 2004, when the first August subsistence-related goal was implemented, sockeye salmon escapement has ranged from approximately 41,789 fish in 2004 to 251,402 fish in 2015 (Table 109-2). Since 2007, when the objectives were reclassified as IRRGs, the August escapement objective plus 25,000 fish for subsistence purposes had been achieved in 10 of 12 years before 2019. The August escapement objective plus 10,000 fish has been achieved in 3 of the last 4 years. Table 109-3 illustrates the average daily escapement and commercial harvest for the Chignik River sockeye salmon late run since 2008. Escapement for the September IRRG period is more difficult to compare over the last 20 years due to the lack of post-weir escapement estimates in some years, and a change in the IRRG period from September 1–15 to include the entire month of September. Additionally, in 2015 and 2018, DIDSON (Dual Identification Sonar) was used to estimate daily escapement for a portion of August and September after the weir was removed. From 2007 through 2015, the 25,000 fish required for subsistence purposes from September 1–15 was only achieved in 3 of the 9 years (Table 109-2). The IRRG had never been achieved after 2016 when it was increased to 50,000 sockeye salmon for the entire month of September. The September IRRG was difficult to achieve even in years when no commercial fishing occurred in September (2011, 2013,

2014, and 2016–2018). Since the change to 10,000 fish for the month of September, the IRRG has been met in 3 of the last 4 years.

Based on subsistence permit data, sockeye salmon constitute the majority of the post-July 5 subsistence harvest in the Chignik River watershed. Table 109-3 illustrates post-July 5 subsistence sockeye salmon harvest from 2004–2012. Division of Subsistence researchers have observed that Chignik subsistence fishermen have customarily and traditionally harvested sockeye salmon during two different time periods: late May to July, and late fall to early winter. Some subsistence users participate in harvesting late-season sockeye salmon during the latter time period because of efficiency of effort, acquired taste, and better processing conditions for drying salmon.

Estimated late-run sockeye salmon subsistence harvests in the Chignik River system have varied significantly from 2004–2022 (years of available late harvest information) with 477 sockeye salmon in 2017 to 2,582 sockeye salmon in 2016 (Table 109-3). The variation in harvest amounts could be due to a variety of factors including amount of effort, run size and fish availability, household surveys done in addition to subsistence permits in years with available funding, and the number of actual returned permits each year.

In 2022, despite the entire CMA being open to commercial fishing for the full month of August, sockeye salmon were projecting above the escapement goal due to a small fleet size being unable to significantly slow fish passage.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to limiting management actions and conservation concerns. This proposal may lead to escapement above the upper bound of the escapement goal range for Chignik River system sockeye salmon due to reduced possible commercial fishing time. The department is **NEUTRAL** to the allocative portion of the proposal that removes the IRRG from the management plan. The department **SUPPORTS** the portion of the proposal that removes the 48-hour maximum weekly fishing periods restriction beginning September 15. The department has the ability to manage and restrict periods based on harvest estimates and catch per unit of effort if there were interest in harvesting coho salmon after September 15.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 109-1.—Sockeye salmon commercial harvest in the CMA, 1985–2022.

Year	Harvest	
	August	September
1985	140,341	37,323
1986	85,650	14,075
1987	104,995	47,377
1988	82,977	28,645
1989	443,853	77,914
1990	558,702	80,455
1991	108,467	55,493
1992	106,372	23,457
1993	137,466	16,768
1994	111,810	21,092
1995	469,109	115,358
1996	197,339	24,563
1997	255,585	44,809
1998	176,056	18,480
1999	511,269	150,658
2000	180,265	-
2001	550,539	2,098
2002	127,138	3,221
2003	188,581	24,482
2004	6,725	-
2005	6,662	-
2006	79,939	-
2007	120,513	7,419
2008	180,395	22,091
2009	154,120	10,821
2010	195,081	6,457
2011	97,732	-
2012	107,500	3,780
2013	146,170	-
2014	158,003	-
2015	347,042	-
2016	172,072	-
2017	211,993	-
2018	-	-
2019	303,888	19,048
2020	-	-
2021	118,122	-
2022	78,576	-
<b>Averages</b>		
1985–1994	188,063	40,260
1995–2004	266,261	38,367
2005–2014	124,612	5,057
2015–2022	153,962	2,381

Table 109-2.—Chignik Weir sockeye salmon escapement, 1985–2022.

Year	Escapement	
	August	September
1985	36,346	15,573
1986	34,362	14,310
1987	77,219	11,199
1988	46,644	1,733
1989	187,981	40,689
1990	61,157	14,366
1991	84,107	17,891
1992	44,818	8,792
1993	100,449	13,045
1994	62,346	9,271
1995	73,546	38,789
1996	93,338	20,590
1997	69,429	45,287
1998	72,349	18,522
1999	84,675	21,930
2000	68,409	5,578
2001	100,718	-
2002	80,858	69,621
2003	51,761	5,014
2004	41,789	18,404
2005	53,580	9,002
2006	111,874	58,941
2007	75,061	28,549
2008	99,650	47,545
2009	92,203	20,729
2010	79,948	30,717
2011	63,759	14,894
2012	101,467	96,650
2013	93,639	131,821
2014	74,410	26,189
2015	251,402	181,400
2016	103,886	52,386
2017	111,615	25,996
2018	145,136	34,916
2019	91,219	42,823
2020	70,610	17,139
2021	142,182	20,583
2022	116,726	-
<b>Averages</b>		
1985–1994	73,543	14,687
1995–2004	73,687	24,374
2005–2014	84,559	46,504
2015–2022	129,097	46,905

Table 109-3.–Chignik late-run subsistence harvest.

Year	Estimated harvest
2004	1,393
2005	1,549
2006	1,612
2007	1,707
2008	1,775
2009	1,390
2010	987
2011 <sup>a</sup>	2,577
2012	496
2013	463
2014 <sup>a</sup>	2,532
2015 <sup>a</sup>	2,516
2016 <sup>a</sup>	2,582
2017	859
2018	694
2019	442
2020	869

*Note:* Late-run subsistence harvests in this table reflects harvests prior to 2015 that were calculated based on the July 5 management date. Beginning in 2015, late harvest was determined by inseason genetics collected at the Chignik River weir. In 2015, late harvest was calculated as June 20, 2016-2018, late harvest was calculated as July 11, 2019, late harvest was calculated as July 13, and in 2020, late harvest was calculated as July 12. ANS used harvests before and after September 15 due to harvest patterns at the time of the finding by the board in 2002 and 2019.

<sup>a</sup> 2011, 2014, 2015, and 2016 data are based on a household survey and returned subsistence permits. All other years are based on an extrapolation of returned subsistence permits only.

**PROPOSAL 110** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to restrict commercial fishing periods in Chignik Lagoon until the escapement goal has been met.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** George P Gundersen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would remove the option to open a commercial fishing period in Chignik Lagoon until sockeye salmon escapement has been met. Although not explicitly clear, this proposal also likely intends to remove the restriction that the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District and, for the month of June, the Eastern District, must open and close concurrently.

It is not clear if this proposal is seeking to close the entire Chignik Bay District (stat area 271-10) or a new stat area only encompassing the Chignik Lagoon within the Chignik Bay District.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), commercial salmon fishing may occur as early as June 1 and may occur in all five districts of the CMA. The Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, must all open and close concurrently by regulation during the month of June. From June 1 through July 5, the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and the Perryville District may open concurrently as well. The Chignik Bay and Central Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, shall always open concurrently based on escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Closing the Chignik Bay District until escapement is reached would likely increase fishing effort in the other districts. This would likely increase the amount of non-Chignik-bound sockeye salmon being caught in the CMA. Lack of fishing in the lagoon may increase the proportion of fish reaching the Chignik weir, resulting in fewer required closures in the other CMA districts. The resulting fewer closures and an increase in interception fishing may increase total harvest opportunity in the CMA.

It is not clear what exact prerequisites are required to open Chignik Lagoon. Assuming this proposal intends to restrict fishing in the Lagoon until the minimum escapement value is reached, then depending on the strength of the run, and when final escapement values are reached, the Chignik Bay District may not be able to be opened until it is too late to prevent escapement above the upper bound of the escapement goal range for Chignik system sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** Since the Chignik weir began operation in 1922, the majority of sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA has occurred within the Chignik Bay District. Since 2008, 59% of all CMA sockeye salmon harvest has been from the Chignik Bay District Table (110-1). Many fishermen in the region only fish within the lagoon or other shallow nearby waters such as Jack's Box (Figure 110-2). Traditionally, management practice has primarily controlled Chignik River system sockeye salmon escapement by alternating between Humes Point and Mensis Point markers to designate closed waters within the lagoon (Figure 110-1) and complete closure of the CMA, particularly during June and early July.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. However, if this proposal were adopted, the department would need clarification as to what escapement values are being used. The proposal may prevent the department from opening the

Chignik Bay District in time to slow a strong sockeye salmon run and prevent escapement above the upper bound of the escapement goal range, particularly if only using final escapement values.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for some private persons to participate in this fishery. There are currently fishers who only fish in the lagoon with vessels and/or gear that may be less effective in outside districts. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost for the department.

Table 110-1.—Yearly sockeye salmon harvest for the entire CMA, Chignik Bay District, and ratio of sockeye salmon caught from the Chignik Bay District within the CMA.

Year	Harvest		Proportion from Chignik Bay District
	Entire CMA	Chignik Bay District	
2008	682,104	521,860	77%
2009	1,196,418	868,219	73%
2010	1,373,240	840,278	61%
2011	2,490,448	1,643,290	66%
2012	1,798,032	1,120,506	62%
2013	2,400,181	1,602,299	67%
2014	616,879	204,596	33%
2015	1,540,388	690,600	45%
2016	1,386,016	733,857	53%
2017	895,041	348,601	39%
2018	a	a	a
2019	638,784	275,304	43%
2020	0	0	NA
2021	118,839	63,772	54%
2022	334,704	220,099	66%
Averages			
15-year	1,031,413	608,885	59%
10-year	793,096	413,913	52%
5-year	218,491	111,835	51%

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data

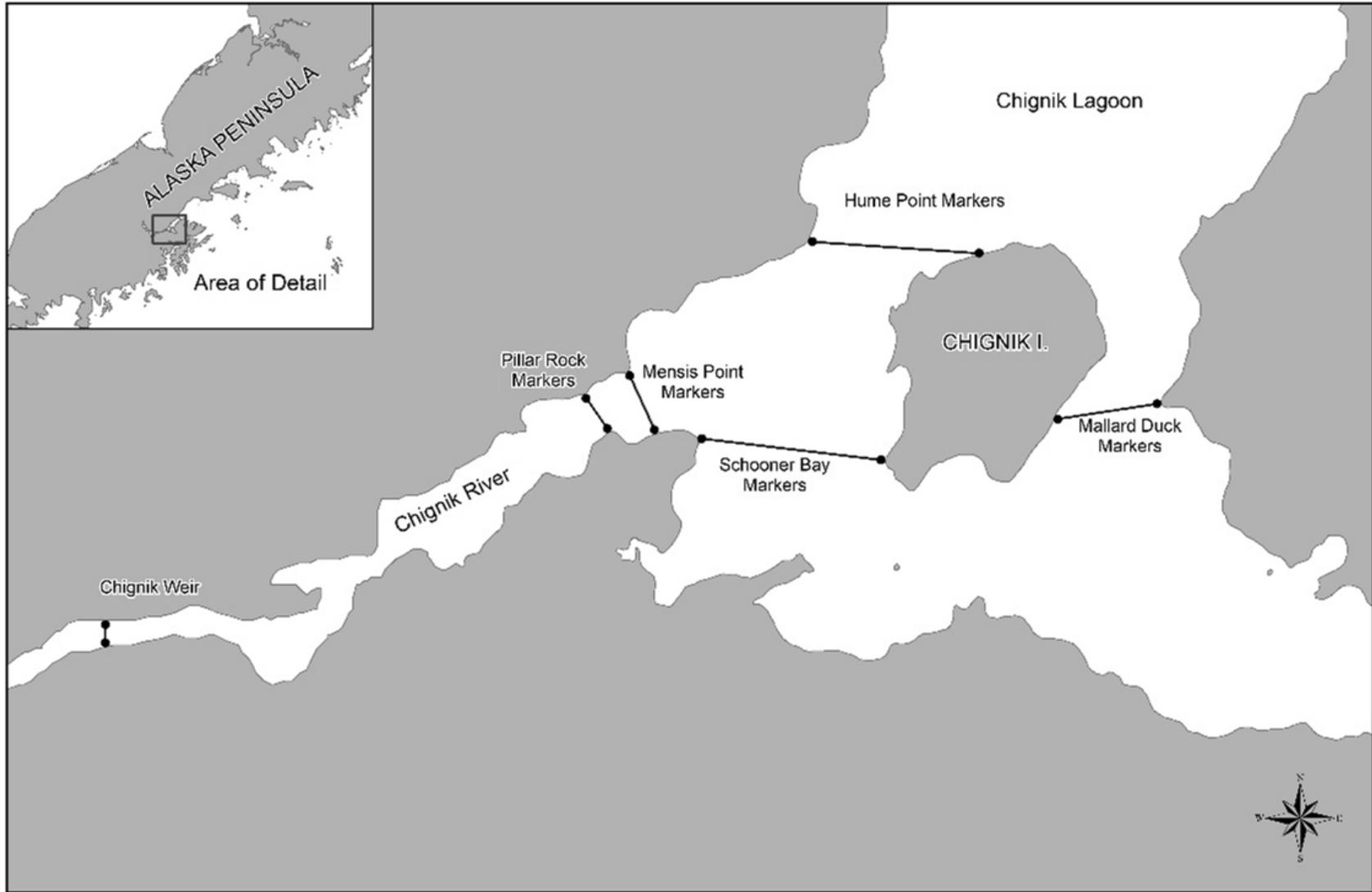


Figure 110-1.—Map of Chignik Lagoon.

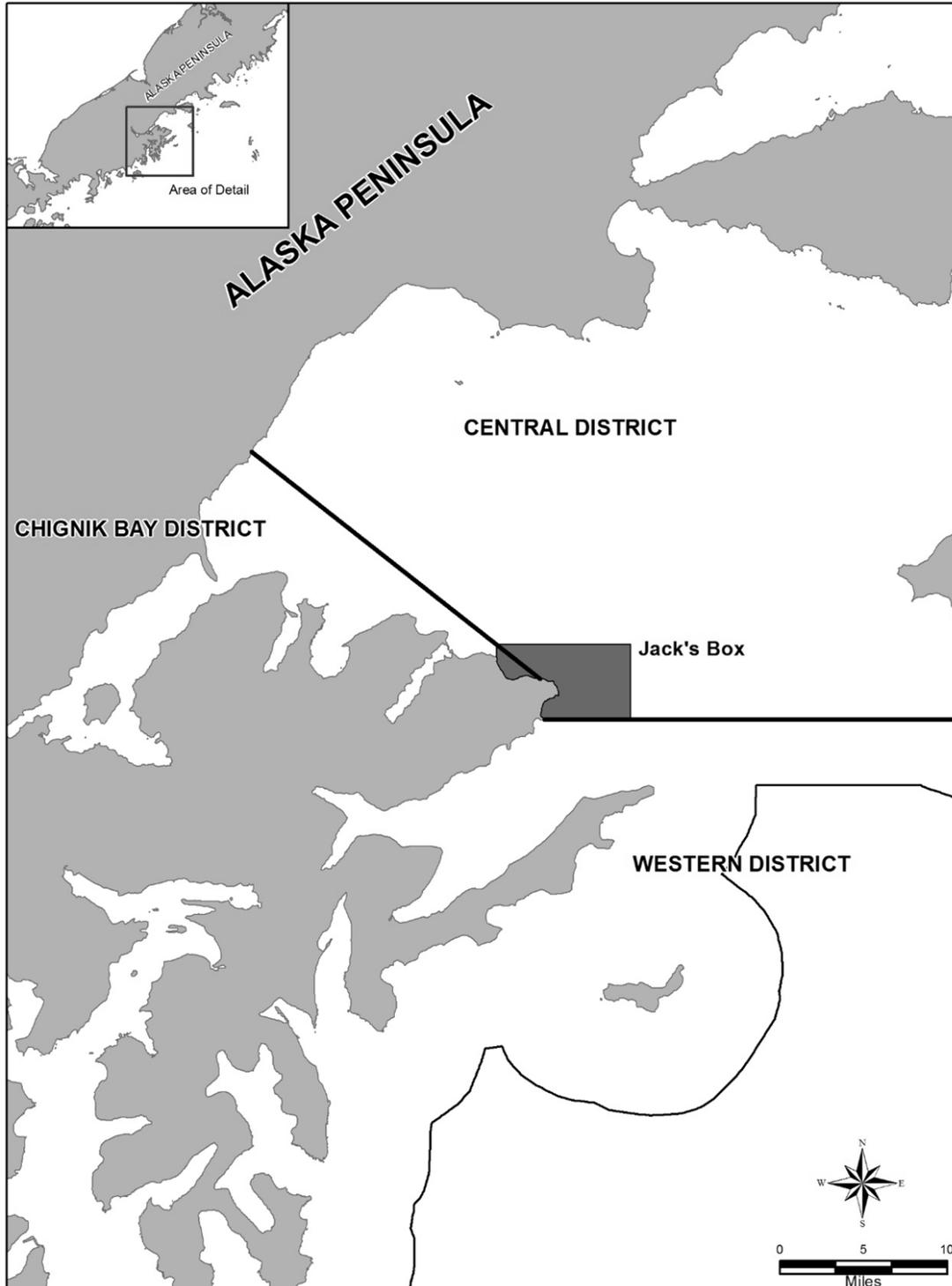


Figure 110-2.-Map of Jack's Box.

**PROPOSAL 111** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Eastern District in August.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel S. Kopun.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to manage the Eastern District on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks during the month of August; and pink, chum, and coho salmon after August.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations within the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) state that after July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Eastern District based on the evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would potentially allow openings focused on pink and chum salmon in portions of the Eastern District that would otherwise be closed due to low Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement when pink and chum salmon populations are healthy. Increased fishing time in the Eastern District could reduce commercial fishing time in the Central and Chignik Bay Districts due to incidental sockeye salmon harvest when the Eastern District would have previously been closed.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, the majority of fishing effort in the Eastern District occurs during June, when fishers are targeting early-run Chignik River sockeye salmon as they enter the CMA. During August, the Eastern District has been primarily managed on pink and chum salmon, with consideration for late-run Chignik sockeye salmon. During years of low late-run sockeye salmon escapement, fishing periods in the terminal areas have been announced in order to target pink and chum salmon. Since 2008, approximately 2% of salmon harvest in the Eastern District during August were sockeye salmon (Table 111-1).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to cause any conservation or management concerns.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 111-1.--August harvest within the Eastern District.

Year	Harvest			
	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	297	473	343,458	50,056
2009	396	11	154,622	39,525
2010	a	a	a	a
2011	38	91	37,829	18,570
2012	a	a	a	a
2013	14	0	179,358	12,321
2014	7	0	752	266
2015	a	a	a	a
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	1,531	1,497	371,656	25,908
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	36,231	31,943	727,922	13,760
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	a	a	a	a
2022	a	a	a	a
Averages				
15-year	2,684	2,328	122,783	12,699
10-year	3,849	3,367	130,002	5,429
5-year	7,316	6,428	147,329	2,788

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data

**PROPOSAL 112 – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to include a harvest cap in the Eastern District to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Nathaniel Rose.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would enact a harvest cap of 20,000 sockeye salmon in the Eastern District of the CMA from July 9 to July 31, which when exceeded, based on fish ticket information, would restrict fishing in the Eastern District terminal harvest areas.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from June 26 through July 8, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District is dependent on the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. From the end of the transition period, until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** In addition to reducing potential sockeye salmon harvest, this may result in a loss in harvest opportunities on local pink and chum salmon stocks returning to the Eastern District due to restricted access in fishing areas after exceeding 20,000 sockeye salmon harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, the majority of fishing effort in the Eastern District occurs during June, when fishermen are targeting early-run Chignik River sockeye salmon as they enter the CMA. During July, the Eastern District has been primarily managed on pink and chum salmon after the transition period. During years of low late-run sockeye salmon escapement, fishing periods in the terminal areas have been announced in order to target pink and chum salmon.

The WASSIP study conducted between 2006 and 2008 sought to identify, in part, the proportion of Chignik sockeye salmon present in geographic areas. WASSIP data were collected from all districts within the CMA, except the Eastern District. Based on historical June tagging studies, sockeye salmon tagged in the Eastern District were recovered in Chignik Lagoon, Cook Inlet, and Bristol Bay. Relative to the Central District and Cape Igvak, the stock composition of sockeye salmon in the Eastern District is likely variable depending on run timing.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create any biological or management concerns in the CMA.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 112-1.—Sockeye salmon harvest within the Eastern District, July 9–July 31.

Year	Sockeye salmon
2008	183
2009	8,142
2010	20,238
2011	6,844
2012	2,054
2013	5,779
2014	a-
2015	0
2016	0
2017	1,186
2018	0
2019	a-
2020	0
2021	6,936
2022	120
15-year average	3,900

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data.

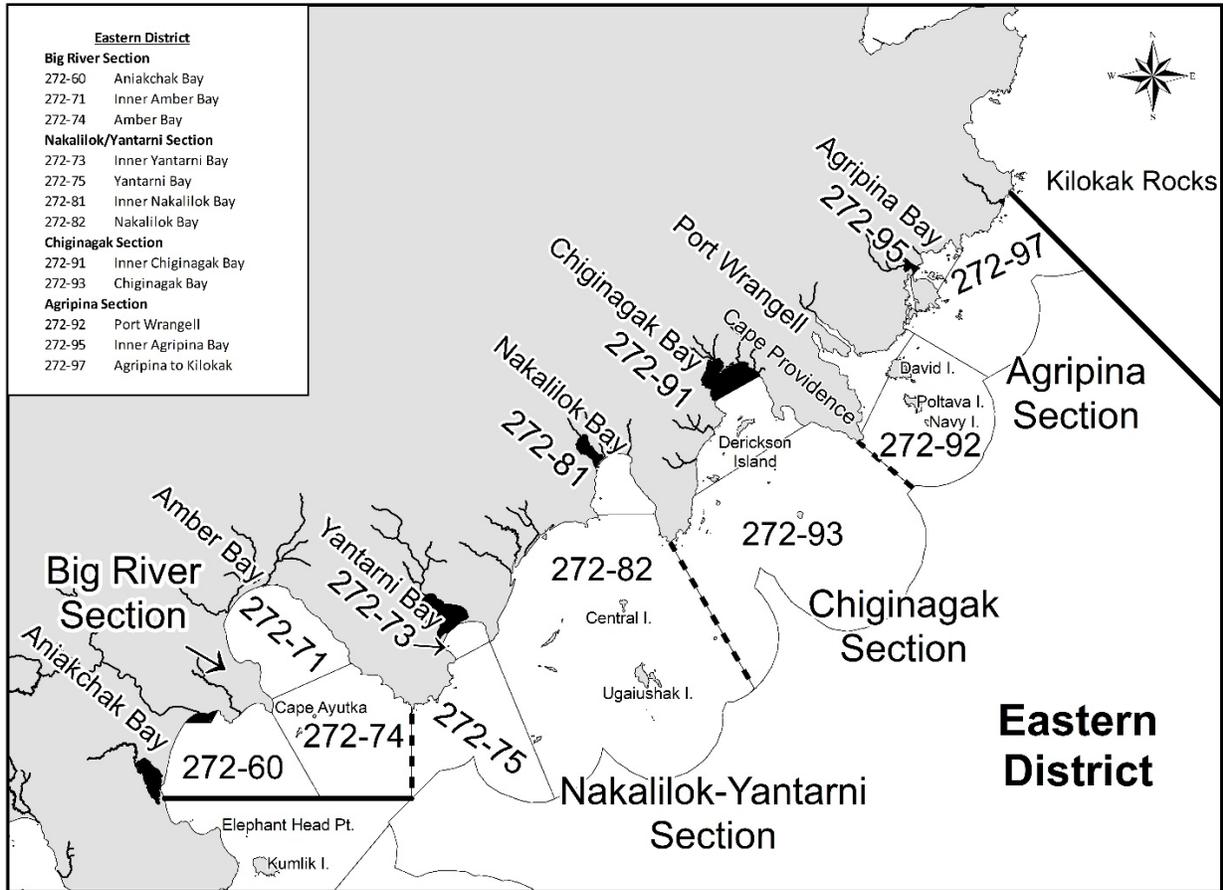


Figure 112-1.—Map of Eastern District.

**PROPOSAL 113 – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to require post-June commercial salmon fishing periods in portions of the Western and Perryville Districts.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Chignik Salmon Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would require weekly 72-hour or longer openings south of the Cape Itki line and in the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area within the Western and Perryville Districts between July 6 and August 15. This weekly opening would be reduced to 36 hours between July 6 and July 31 if a directed sockeye salmon fishery has not occurred in the Chignik Area and the department is not expecting the midpoint of the Chignik early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal to be reached by July 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from July 6 until mid-July (transition period), commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River. From the end of the transition period until July 31, the Western and Perryville Districts are managed based on the department’s evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks and the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon run. In August and September, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are based on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement or local pink, coho, and chum salmon abundance. Inner bay fisheries, or fisheries north of the Cape Itki line, may occur in August in areas with adequate pink and chum salmon abundance to warrant fisheries with the possibility of extended fishing time. Districtwide openers will not occur unless the Chignik River is meeting interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives (including the inriver run goal (IRRG)) and overall pink and chum salmon abundance is sufficient to meet Western and Perryville Districts’ escapement objectives.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** While these periods would be reduced in the case of a weak Chignik sockeye salmon run, a reduction would not be in effect after July 31, or if there were weak pink or chum salmon runs throughout this time. As written, this would inhibit the department’s ability to close fishing in these areas even when significant numbers of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon are being caught when a run is weak, leading to the potential of not achieving the escapement goal. Since these required openings are in outside waters south of the Cape Itki line, it is likely that significant amounts of sockeye salmon would be caught which may also reduce commercial fishing time in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts.

**BACKGROUND:** The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries have historically been based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The Western and Perryville Districts have typically opened during early to mid-July, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. At the 2019 board meeting, a proposal was passed allowing the Western District to open concurrently with the Chignik Bay District, Central District, and Inner Castle Cape subsection of the Western District from June 1 through July 5 when previously the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, was limited to two 48-hour openers during this time period. The Perryville District was also allowed to open concurrently with the other Districts, although only for up to three 48-hour fishing periods before July 6. However, since 2018, due to weak early-run sockeye salmon returns, there have been no commercial openings within the CMA before July 6.

Salmon harvest from July 6–August 15 in the Western and Perryville Districts, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, has ranged from 3 to 2,439,421 pink salmon in recent years (2008–2022; Table 113-1). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 714 to 246,420 fish, and sockeye salmon harvest has ranged from 126–409,241 fish during this same time period.

Chignik Management Area pink salmon have not met the aggregate aerial survey based sustainable escapement goal (SEG; 170,000–280,000) in two out of the past four even years (2016 and 2020). The SEG was revised as an aggregate index goal in 2016, with a reduced number of index streams (Schaberg et al. 2015), and was exceeded in 2022 (Table 113-2).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. This proposal would reduce the ability of the department to manage pink, chum, and sockeye salmon stocks by requiring the department to announce fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts when local pink and chum salmon are in low abundance, or when the department would usually have the area closed due to Chignik River system sockeye salmon concerns. Because the department is moving to a single-run escapement goal, it is recommended that the reduction requirement be changed to the midpoint of the historical run timing for July 31 (Figure 113-1) if this proposal is adopted.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 113-1.—Combined Perryville and Western Districts harvest, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection July 6 through August 15.

Year	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	49,199	92,421	1,262,845	86,812
2009	36,492	69,785	416,033	54,228
2010	42,993	82,183	177,928	167,998
2011	36,517	42,276	388,756	53,397
2012	11,656	13,566	42,917	29,842
2013	15,102	14,728	292,689	11,567
2014	296,400	93,229	225,360	26,597
2015	409,241	31,546	881,181	31,218
2016	265,181	41,093	37,112	26,988
2017	184,512	71,388	2,439,421	246,420
2018	126	1	3	714
2019	208,642	75,245	640,366	65,536
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	44,171	43,415	704,746	20,040
2022	96,374	32,444	816,124	51,058
Averages				
15-year	113,107	46,888	555,032	58,161
10-year	151,975	40,309	603,700	48,014
5-year	69,863	30,221	432,248	27,470

Table 113-2.-Chignik Management Area chum and pink salmon escapement and upper and lower escapement goals, 2013–2022.

Entire Chignik Area	2022 Goal range			Initial year	Escapement									
	Lower	Upper	Type		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>CHUM SALMON</b>														
	45,000	110,000	SEG	2016	109,900	46,720	123,400	69,900	96,900	<b>33,400</b>	98,000	<b>39,675</b>	122,000	73,200
<b>PINK SALMON</b>														
odd year	260,000	450,000	SEG	2016	231,800		404,000		586,000		415,300		495,000	
even year	170,000	280,000	SEG	2016		87,240		<b>68,100</b>		NA <sup>a</sup>		<b>118,675</b>		375,600

Note: **Bold** means below minimum escapement goal.

<sup>a</sup> Incomplete escapement estimate due to poor surveying conditions

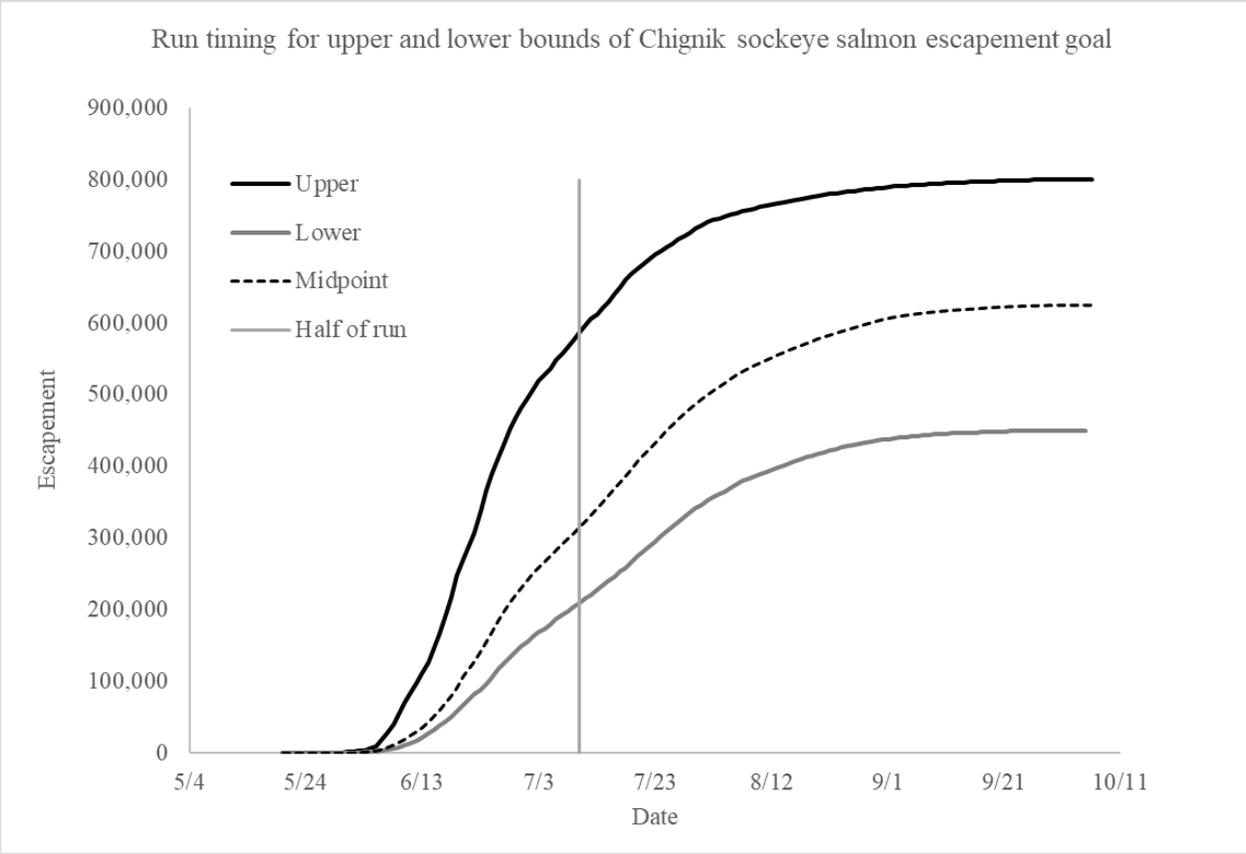


Figure 113-1.-Chignik River system sockeye salmon run timing curve.

**PROPOSAL 114 – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods in portions of the Eastern District.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Chignik Salmon Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would require weekly 72-hour or longer commercial salmon fishing openings in the Agripina Section Outer Area, Chiginagak Outer Section, and Nakalilok-Yantarni Outer Section of the Eastern District (described in Proposal 117; Figure 114-1) between July 6 and August 15. This weekly period would be reduced to 36 hours between July 6 and July 31 if a directed sockeye salmon fishery has not occurred in the Chignik Area and the department is not expecting the midpoint of the Chignik early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal to be reached by July 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from June 26 through July 8, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District is dependent on the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. From the end of the transition period, until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon run. After July 31, the Eastern District is managed based on the evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon run.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would change management to require weekly periods within much of the Eastern District between July 6 and August 15. While these periods would be reduced in the case of a weak Chignik sockeye salmon run, a reduction is not allowed when a sockeye salmon run is poor after July 31, or if there are weak pink or chum salmon runs throughout this time. As written, this proposal would inhibit the department's ability to close fishing in these areas even when significant numbers of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon are being caught when a run is weak, leading to the potential of not achieving the escapement goal. Since these required openings are in outer waters, it is likely that a significant amount of sockeye salmon may be caught, which may also reduce commercial fishing time in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts. This would reduce the ability of the department to manage pink, chum, and sockeye salmon stocks by requiring the department to announce fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts when local pink and chum salmon are in low abundance, or when the department would usually have the area closed due to Chignik system sockeye salmon concerns.

**BACKGROUND:** Historically, the majority of fishing effort in the Eastern District occurs during June, when fishermen are targeting early-run Chignik River sockeye salmon as they enter the CMA. During July, the Eastern District has been primarily managed on pink and chum salmon after the transition period. During years of low late-run sockeye salmon escapement, fishing periods in the terminal areas have been announced in order to target local pink and chum salmon. Harvest within the last 15 years (2008–2022) between July 6 and August 15 in the Eastern District has ranged from 0 to 43,523 sockeye, 0 to 6,189 pink, and 0 to 102,067 chum salmon (Table 114-1). Majority of harvest has occurred in stat areas apart from those that cover the waters within the proposal (Table 114-1, 114-2).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. Because the department is moving to a single run escapement goal, it is recommended that this reduction requirement be changed to the midpoint of the historical run timing for July 31 if this proposal is adopted. This proposal is submitted in concert with Proposal 117, which describes the Agripina Section Outer Area, Chiginagak Outer Section, and Nakalilok-Yantarni Outer Section.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

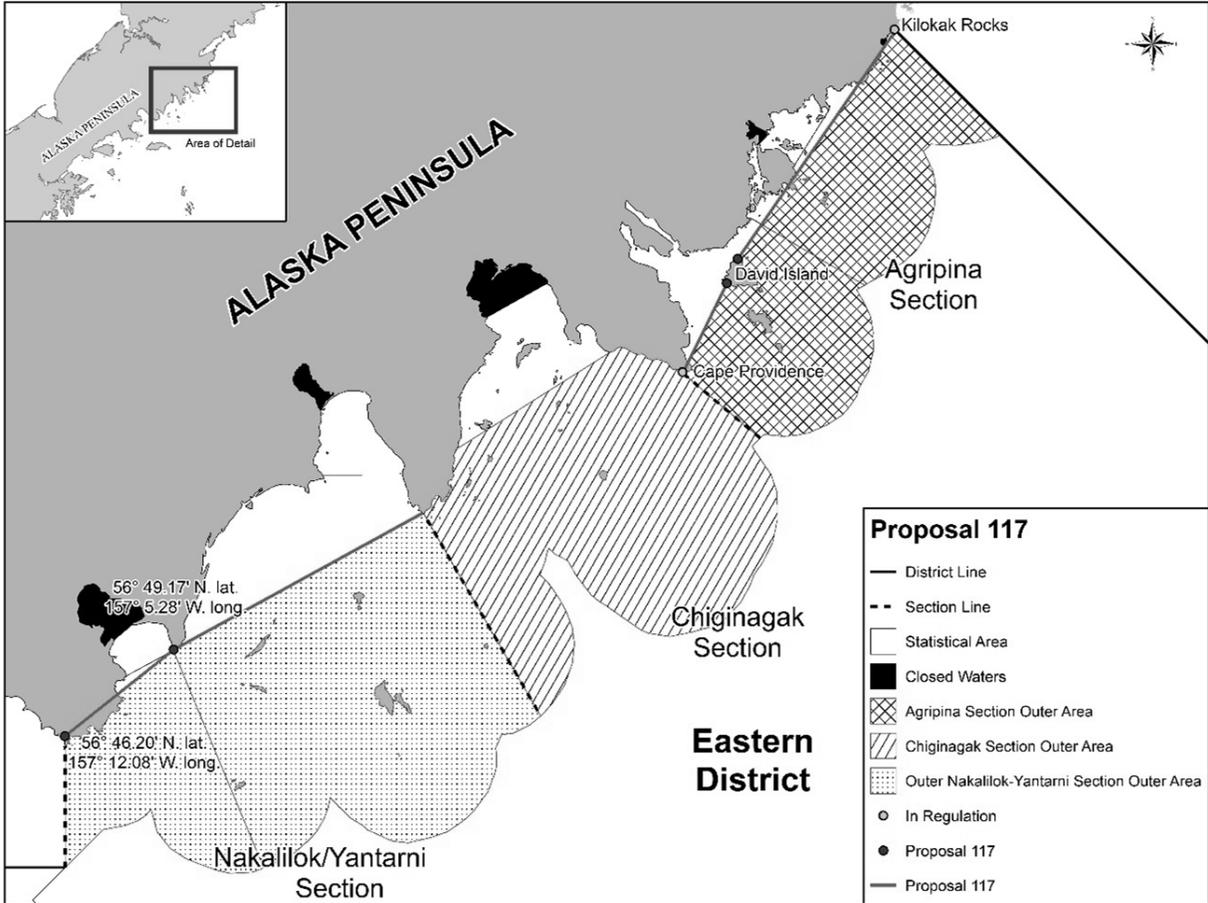


Figure 114-1.—Map of Eastern District and new proposed sections.

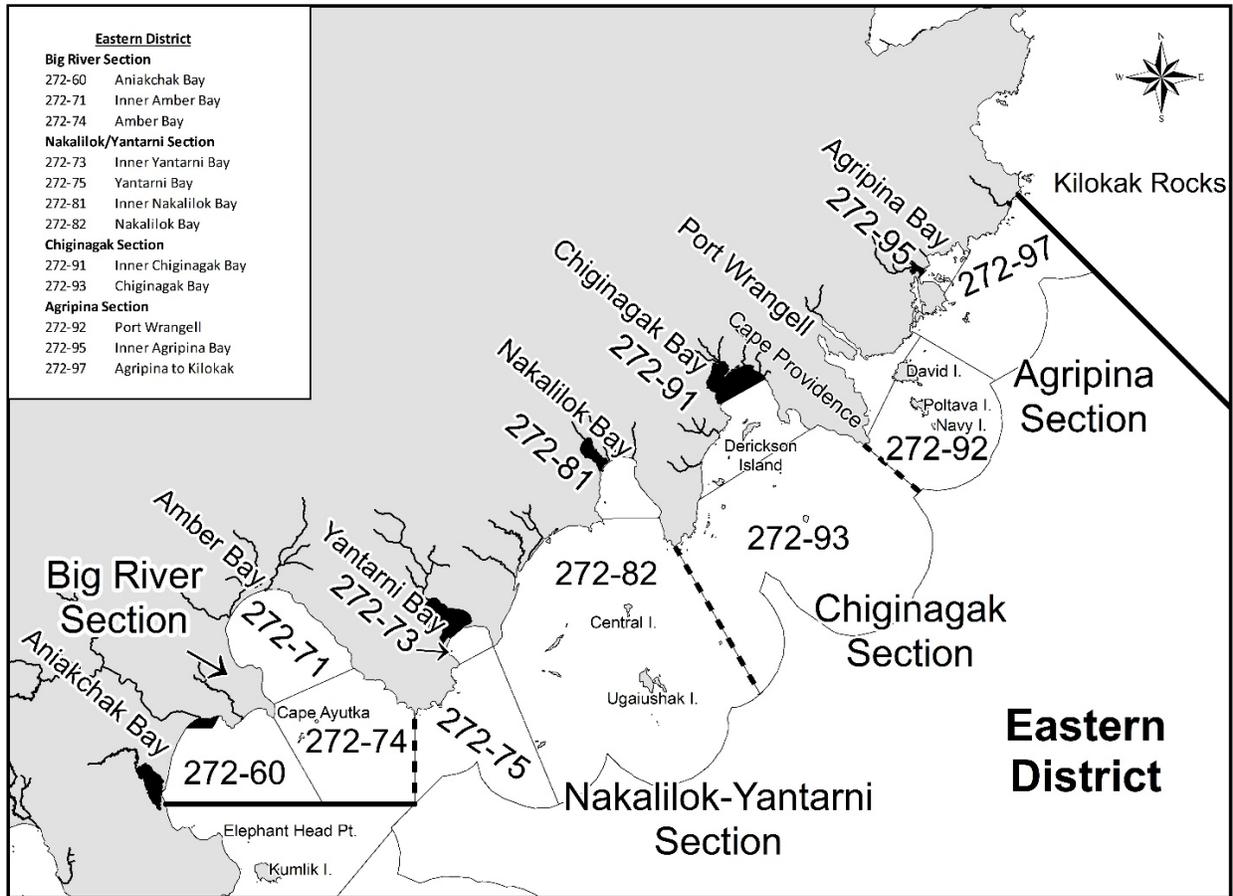


Figure 114-2.—Map of Eastern District.

Table 114-1.—Eastern District salmon harvest from July 6 through August 15.

Year	Sockeye salmon	Pink salmon	Coho salmon	Chum salmon
2008	1,122	951	405,023	57,642
2009	10,576	2,603	248,673	54,664
2010	43,523	2,578	33,568	84,634
2011	13,336	320	35,744	31,194
2012	2,328	36	1,508	13,227
2013	5,792	517	187,183	16,059
2014	86	653	2,964	610
2015	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	8,562	913	359,844	102,067
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	22,404	6,189	106,993	7,198
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	120	3	1,796	5,113
2022	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data.

Table 114-2.—Eastern District salmon harvest from July 6 through August 15 in statistical areas 272-75, -82, -92, -93, -97.

Year	Sockeye salmon	Pink salmon	Coho salmon	Chum salmon
2008	a	a	a	a
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	8,657	1,159	7,212	21,535
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	a	a	a	a
2013	3,223	367	6,609	2,774
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	2,517	62	68,952	13,192
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	4,558	3,539	46,673	3,588
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup> Confidential data.

**PROPOSAL 115** – Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* so that pink, chum and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands Sections of Registration Area M.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. and Amy M Foster.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** From July 9 through September 30, this would direct the department to manage the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA (Figure 115-1) based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Island area of the Southeastern District of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area (Figure 115-2).

Additionally, this proposal would require a 48-hour commercial salmon fishing closure within a seven-day period in the Perryville District (stat areas 275-42, 275-52, 275-60) and Western District (stat area 273-74; Figure 115-1) in July and August. This closure would occur regardless of the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in either the Southeastern District of Area M or the Western and Perryville Districts in the CMA.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from July 6 until mid-July (transition period), commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville Districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon run. In August and September, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are based on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and local pink, coho, and chum salmon abundance. Inner bay fisheries, or fisheries north of the Cape Itki line (Figure 115-1), may occur in August in areas with adequate pink and chum salmon abundance to warrant fisheries with the possibility of extended fishing time. Districtwide periods will not occur unless the Chignik River is meeting interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives (including the IRRG) and overall pink and chum salmon abundance is sufficient to meet Western and Perryville Districts' escapement objectives. The Chignik River has an IRRG of 10,000 sockeye salmon for the months of August and September independently.

In Registration Area M, 5 AAC 09.360 describes the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan (SEDM)*. From June 1 until July 25, fishing periods in the majority of the SEDM have allocative ties to the Chignik River sockeye salmon run. In SEDM, from June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered Chignik-bound, and SEDM is allowed to harvest 7.6% of the harvest in the CMA. Starting July 1, the Northwest Stepovak Section of Stepovak Bay, is managed based on the run strength of local sockeye salmon returning to Orzinski Lake and is not counted towards the 7.6% harvest allocation. The Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay, is still restricted from fishing unless the CMA is projected to harvest 600,000 sockeye salmon by July 25. From July 26 through October 1, commercial fishing periods in Stepovak Bay are based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks except that the fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a 7-day period.

Starting July 1, the Shumagin Islands Section of Registration Area M is managed under 5 AAC 09.366, the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*, during the timeframe of this proposal. From July 6 through July 31, fishing opportunity in the majority of the Shumagin Islands Section consists of a 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods separated by 60-hour closures. Additional fishing opportunity may be allowed in a small area of the Shumagin Islands Section, the Zachary Bay Terminal Area, based on the department's evaluation of the local salmon stocks returning to Zachary Bay. From August 1 until August 31, in the Shumagin Islands Section, fishing periods are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. From September 1 through October 31, these areas are managed primarily on coho salmon abundance, although late pink and chum salmon run strength may be considered when determining fishing time.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** If Registration Area M pink, chum, and/or coho salmon escapements are poor, this may result in a significant loss in harvest opportunities on local stocks returning to the Western and Perryville Districts. It is not clear how this proposal would direct the department to manage Perryville and Western Districts stocks when local runs are poor while the Stepovak Bay and Shumagin Islands Sections experience runs sufficient to provide commercial fishing. If Area M pink, chum and/or coho escapements are high, this may allow commercial fishing on a low abundance of local salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Districts leading to the potential of not achieving the escapement goal. While the department would continue to assess the pink and chum salmon escapement into those local systems, the manager would not have the ability to close prior to a conservation concern because the areas would no longer be managed based on the status of the Chignik Area stocks. By the time a conservation concern is determined, it could be too late to effectively protect a weak run. Current regulatory language also requires the manager to base fishing periods on the strength of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon run. This proposal does not include that condition, which would be a potential conservation concern when sockeye salmon returns are weak.

**BACKGROUND:** The Western and Perryville Districts typically open during early to mid-July, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. Most of the effort takes place in July and August; however, the season can extend through October to target coho salmon. Since 2008, there have been 3 years in which harvest has occurred in September, and none in October. Pink salmon harvest from July 6–September 30 in the Western and Perryville Districts has ranged from 0 fish to 5,225,919 fish in recent years (2008–2022). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 0 to 295,455 fish during this same period (Table 115-1).

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries are managed based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The final estimated escapements for pink and chum salmon are reported by aggregates of peak aerial surveys and are an index of escapement used to monitor the health of the runs, not a total estimated escapement value.

Prior to 2016, the CMA areawide (including all districts) pink salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was 200,000–500,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower bound SEG for chum salmon was 57,500 fish. After an escapement goal review analysis in 2015, the areawide SEGs were changed by reducing the index streams to those that were consistently surveyed each year, with good survey conditions, for the past several decades. This reduced the number of index streams used to report escapement by approximately 80% for pink salmon and approximately 85% for chum salmon. As a result of the lower number of index streams,

the SEGs for pink and chum salmon were also lowered. The current even-year pink salmon SEG is 170,000–280,000 fish and the odd-year pink salmon SEG is 260,000–450,000 fish. The lower bound SEG was changed to an SEG of 45,000–110,000 chum salmon for the CMA. Since 2008, the CMA pink salmon SEGs have been achieved or exceeded every year except 2016 and 2020 when escapement was below the lower bound. Poor surveying conditions prevented a definitive assessment of escapement in 2018, although it was perceived to be a poor year for pink salmon as well. CMA chum salmon escapements have achieved the SEG every year since 2008.

The harvest of sockeye salmon in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of SEDM is not included in the 7.6% allocation of Chignik harvest beginning on July 1. Beginning July 26, the entire Southeastern District is managed for local pink, chum and coho salmon. Beginning July 6, the Shumagin Islands Section may open for scheduled fishing periods pending results from the immature test fishery. In August, fishing periods are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon runs. Pink salmon harvest in the Southeastern District from July 6 through September 30 has ranged from 177,964 fish to 10,215,434 fish in recent years (2008–2022). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 46,130 to 682,281 fish during this time period (Table 115-2).

In the South Alaska Peninsula management area of Registration Area M, pink and chum salmon escapements are estimated using an indexed total escapement method. Due to the late run timing of coho salmon, limited survey data are gathered, and no indexed total escapement can be calculated, therefore no goal has been set for coho salmon. The South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon SEG (1,750,000–4,000,000 fish) incorporates all of the South Peninsula. Prior to 2016, the area had an even-year SEG (1,864,600–3,729,300) and an odd-year SEG (1,637,800–3,275,700). The Southeastern District (which includes SEDM) has a chum salmon SEG for the entire district of 106,400–212,800 fish. Since 2008, the pink salmon SEG has been met or exceeded 9 years and has been below the goal 5 years. The Southeastern District chum salmon escapement has achieved or exceeded the SEG every year since 2008, except in 2010 and 2012.

Due to inclement weather, the late run timing of coho salmon in Registration Area M, and the departure of department staff from the Sand Point field office at the end of the season, peak aerial surveys are usually not completed for coho salmon. Fishing periods for coho salmon in September and October are managed based on catch-per-unit-effort data from set gillnet permit holders in SEDM, although there has been no commercial fishing in October in recent years due to lack of industry interest.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. The department would lose the ability to manage for local stock salmon escapements, which could lead to overharvest and underescapement.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 115-1.—Western and Perryville Districts commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished, and harvest of pink, chum and coho salmon from July 9 through September 30, by year, 2008–2022.

Year	July 9–September 30	Harvest		
	Days fished	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	33	104,307	1,304,138	78,551
2009	29	84,608	481,719	72,231
2010	38	110,601	228,996	206,153
2011	33	61,414	560,990	82,539
2012	23	22,068	59,405	36,724
2013	25	19,362	355,429	15,712
2014	39	107,672	238,504	29,463
2015	32	34,211	1,085,621	34,609
2016	24	48,173	39,984	29,136
2017	34	207,326	5,225,919	295,455
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	45	136,076	1,180,264	77,787
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	25	75,812	1,151,191	25,337
2022	40	34,811	840,817	56,260
Average				
2008–2022	28	69,763	850,198	69,330

Table 115-2.—Registration Area M Southeastern District commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished, and harvest of pink, chum and coho salmon from July 9 through September 30, by year, 2008–2022.

Year	July 9 - September 30	Harvest		
	Days fished	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	65	177,207	4,671,595	207,692
2009	66	198,695	2,936,725	352,170
2010	31	110,824	405,111	330,774
2011	55	118,444	3,288,245	301,042
2012	25	40,447	177,964	128,524
2013	61	130,459	4,394,326	241,991
2014	31	100,303	263,239	46,130
2015	68	183,755	10,215,434	231,290
2016	36	141,518	274,517	101,313
2017	63	269,037	9,355,906	682,281
2018	25	191,572	331,484	178,373
2019	54	290,250	6,555,989	241,875
2020	45	128,427	2,235,762	152,606
2021	51	257,391	7,197,671	205,333
2022	51	40,884	1,659,197	150,630
Average 2008–2022	48	158,614	3,597,544	236,802

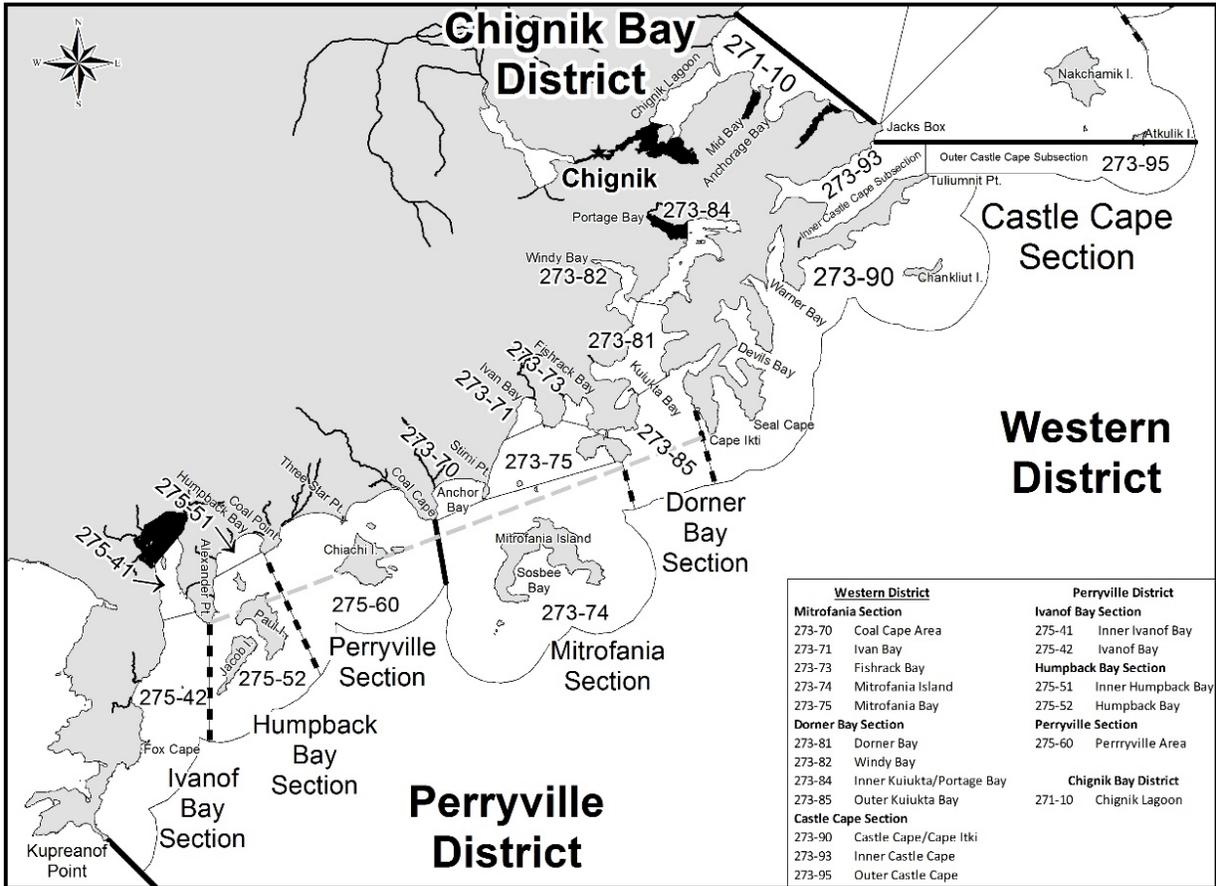


Figure 115-1—Map of the CMA Western and Perryville Districts.

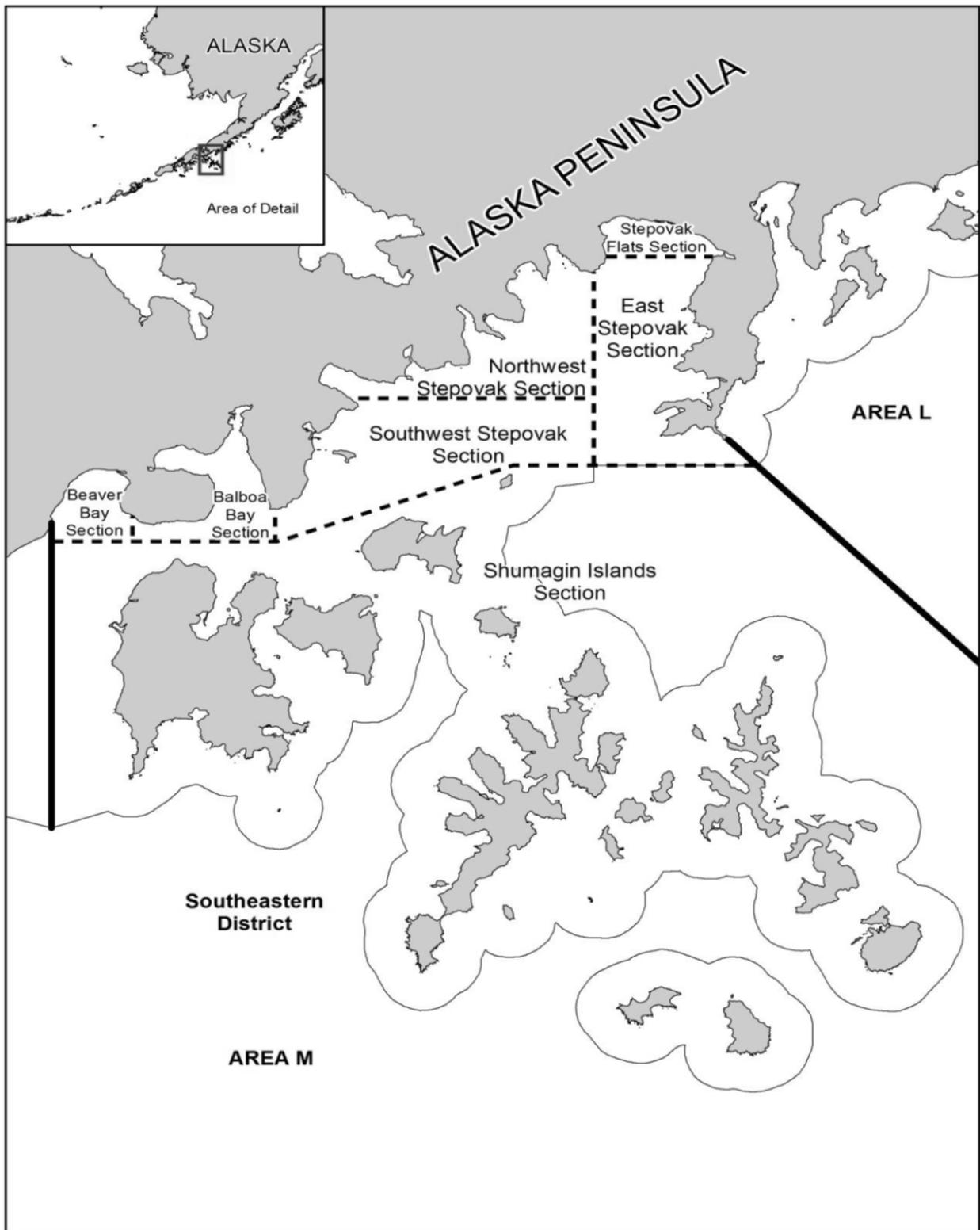


Figure 115-2.—Map of the Southeastern District of Registration Area M.

**PROPOSAL 116** – Modify the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to manage the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Section of Registration Area M.

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Area M Seiners Association.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** From July 25 through September 30, this would direct the department to manage the Western and Perryville Districts (Figure 116-1) of the CMA based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) section of Registration Area M (Figure 116-2).

Additionally, at least one 48-hour closure within any seven-day period would be required in the Perryville and Western Districts during this time.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from July 6 until mid-July, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville Districts are managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon run. In August and September, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts is based on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and local pink, coho, and chum salmon abundance. Inner bay fisheries, or fisheries north of the Cape Iteki line, may occur in August in areas with adequate pink and chum salmon abundance to warrant fisheries with the possibility of extended fishing time. Districtwide openers will not occur unless the Chignik River is meeting interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives (including the IRRG) and overall pink and chum salmon abundance is sufficient to meet Western and Perryville Districts' escapement objectives. The Chignik River has an IRRG of 10,000 sockeye salmon for the months of August and September independently.

In Registration Area M, 5 AAC 09.360 describes the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan*. From June 1 until July 25, fishing periods in the majority of the SEDM have allocative ties to the Chignik River sockeye salmon run. In SEDM, from June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered Chignik-bound and SEDM is allowed to harvest 7.6% of the harvest in the CMA. Starting July 1, the Northwest Stepovak Section of Stepovak Bay is managed based on the run strength of local sockeye salmon returning to Orzinski Lake and is not counted towards the 7.6% harvest allocation. The Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay, is still restricted from fishing unless the CMA is projected to harvest 600,000 sockeye salmon by July 25. From July 26 through October 1, commercial fishing periods in Stepovak Bay are based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks except that the fishery will be closed for at least one 36-hour period within a 7-day period.

Starting July 1, the Shumagin Islands Section of Registration Area M is managed under 5 AAC 09.366, the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan*, during the timeframe of this proposal. From July 6 through July 31, fishing opportunity in the majority of the Shumagin Islands Section consists of a 33-hour fishing period, followed by a 63-hour closure, followed by six 36-hour fishing periods, separated by 60-hour closures. Additional fishing opportunity may be allowed in a small area of

the Shumagin Islands Section, the Zachary Bay Terminal Area, based on the department's evaluation of the local salmon stocks returning to Zachary Bay. From August 1 until August 31, in the Shumagin Islands Section, fishing periods are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. From September 1 through October 31, these areas are managed primarily on coho salmon abundance, although late pink and chum salmon run strength may be considered when determining fishing time.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** It is not clear how this would direct the department to manage Perryville and Western Districts' stocks when local runs are poor while the Stepovak Bay and Shumagin Islands Sections experience runs sufficient to provide commercial fishing opportunity however it appears the Perryville and Western Districts would not open in this scenario.

If Registration Area M pink, chum, and/or coho salmon escapements are poor, this may result in a significant loss in harvest opportunities on local stocks returning to Western and Perryville Districts. Restrictions to fishing time based on escapement levels of Alaska Peninsula stocks may also result in a loss of harvest opportunity and/or exceeding pink and chum salmon escapement objectives in the Western and Perryville Districts. If Alaska Peninsula pink, chum and/or coho escapements are high, this may allow commercial fishing on a low abundance of local salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Districts.

**BACKGROUND:** The Western and Perryville Districts typically open during early to mid-July, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. Most of the effort takes place in July and August; however, the season can extend through October to target coho salmon. Since 2008, there have been 3 years in which harvest has occurred in September, and none in October. Pink salmon harvest from July 6–September 30 in the Western and Perryville Districts has ranged from 0 fish to 4,924,849 fish in recent years (2008–2022). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 0 to 157,057 fish during this same period (Table 116-1).

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries are managed based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams. The final estimated escapements for pink and chum salmon are reported by aggregates of peak aerial surveys and are an index of escapement used to monitor the health of the runs, not a total estimated escapement value.

Prior to 2016, the CMA areawide (including all districts) pink salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) was 200,000–500,000 fish in even years and 500,000–800,000 fish in odd years. The CMA lower bound SEG for chum salmon was 57,500 fish. After an escapement goal review analysis in 2015, the areawide SEGs were changed by reducing the index streams to those that were consistently surveyed each year, with good survey conditions, for the past several decades. This reduced the number of index streams used to report escapement by approximately 80% for pink salmon and approximately 85% for chum salmon. As a result of the lower number of index streams, the SEGs for pink and chum salmon were also lowered. The current even year pink salmon SEG is 170,000–280,000 fish, and the odd-year pink salmon SEG is 260,000–450,000 fish. The lower bound SEG was changed to an SEG of 45,000–110,000 chum salmon for the CMA. Since 2008, the CMA pink salmon SEGs have been achieved or exceeded every year except 2016 and 2020 when escapement was well below the lower bound. Poor surveying conditions prevented a definitive assessment of escapement in 2018, although it was perceived to be a poor year for pink salmon as well. CMA chum salmon escapements have achieved the SEG every year in the same period.

The Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) of SEDM switches to local management of sockeye salmon on July 1. Beginning July 26, the entire SEDM in the Southeastern District is managed for local pink, chum and coho salmon. Beginning July 6, the Shumagin Islands Section may open for scheduled fishing periods pending results from the immature test fishery. In August, fishing periods are based on the strength of local coho, pink and chum salmon runs. Pink salmon harvest in the Southeastern District from July 25 through September 30 has ranged from 68,605 fish to 8,764,837 fish in recent years (2008–2022). Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 10,461 to 422,434 fish during this period (Table 116-2).

In the South Alaska Peninsula Area, pink and chum salmon escapements are estimated using an indexed total escapement method. Due to the late run timing of coho salmon, limited survey data are gathered, and no indexed total escapement can be calculated, therefore no goal has been set for coho salmon. The South Alaska Peninsula pink salmon SEG (1,750,000–4,000,000 fish) incorporates all of the South Alaska Peninsula. Prior to 2016, the area had an even-year SEG (1,864,600–3,729,300) and an odd-year SEG (1,637,800–3,275,700). The Southeastern District (which includes SEDM) has a chum salmon SEG for the entire district of 106,400–212,800 fish. Since 2008, the pink salmon SEG has been met or exceeded 9 years and has been below the goal 5 years. The Southeastern District chum salmon escapement has achieved or exceeded the SEG every year since 2008 except in 2010 and 2012.

Due to inclement weather, the late run timing of coho salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, and the departure of department staff from the Sand Point field office at the end of the season, peak aerial surveys are usually not completed for coho salmon. Fishing periods for coho salmon in September and October are managed based on catch-per-unit effort data from set gillnet fishermen in SEDM, although there has been no commercial fishing in October in recent years due to lack of industry interest.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal due to conservation concerns. The department would lose the ability to manage for local stock salmon escapements, which could lead to overharvest and underescapement.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery

Table 116-1.–Western and Perryville Districts commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished, and harvest of pink, chum and coho salmon from July 25 through September 30, by year, 2008–2022.

Year	July 25 - September 30	Harvest		
	Days fished	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	28	70,660	1,067,999	56,238
2009	19	29,372	187,237	29,633
2010	27	61,562	157,772	113,102
2011	29	57,075	529,108	70,277
2012	19	16,999	53,312	26,714
2013	19	9,148	318,795	11,043
2014	27	86,284	207,890	20,418
2015	23	22,507	996,293	26,138
2016	12	17,473	14,746	9,155
2017	33	185,694	4,924,849	157,057
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	37	107,546	992,661	61,225
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	24	75,812	1,151,155	23,465
2022	27	32,304	793,074	37,045
Average 2008–2022	22	51,496	759,659	42,767

Table 116-2.—Registration Area M Southeastern District commercial salmon fishing days open and days fished, and harvest of pink, chum and coho salmon from July 25 through September 30, by year, 2008–2022.

Year	July 25-September 30	Harvest		
	Days fished	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	49	100,552	4,125,474	127,311
2009	50	115,536	2,416,106	282,908
2010	15	39,610	235,286	118,109
2011	39	71,488	2,771,260	160,569
2012	9	18,100	68,605	36,090
2013	45	71,808	3,685,838	143,955
2014	19	34,420	151,807	10,461
2015	52	79,140	8,764,837	126,052
2016	22	59,053	177,205	40,684
2017	49	210,380	8,533,358	422,434
2018	13	71,327	170,401	63,387
2019	43	202,106	5,683,643	134,083
2020	33	104,767	1,791,815	49,872
2021	39	219,284	6,899,991	103,891
2022	36	32,893	1,474,245	88,499
Average 2008–2022	34	95,364	3,129,991	127,220

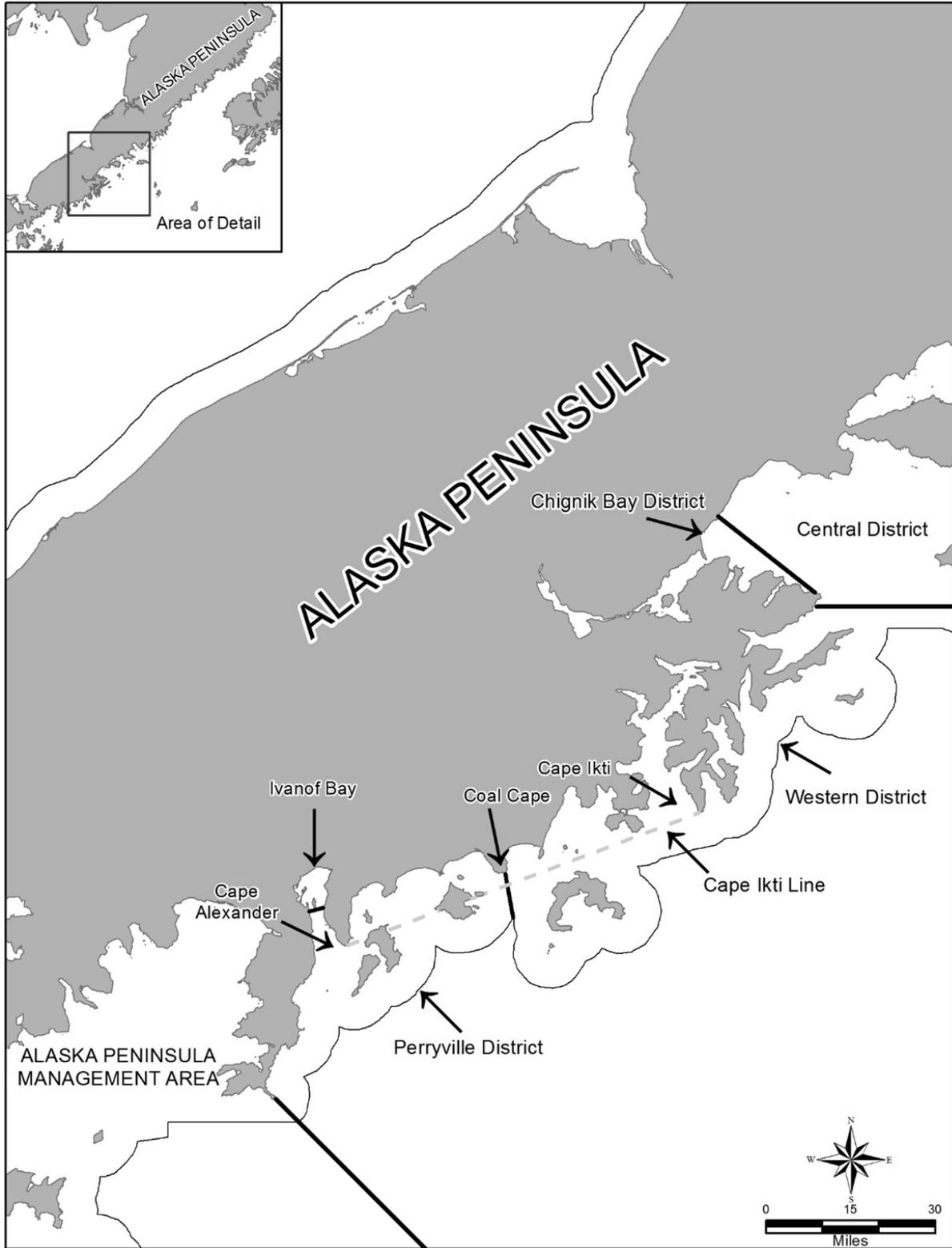


Figure 116-1.—Map of the Western and Perryville Districts.

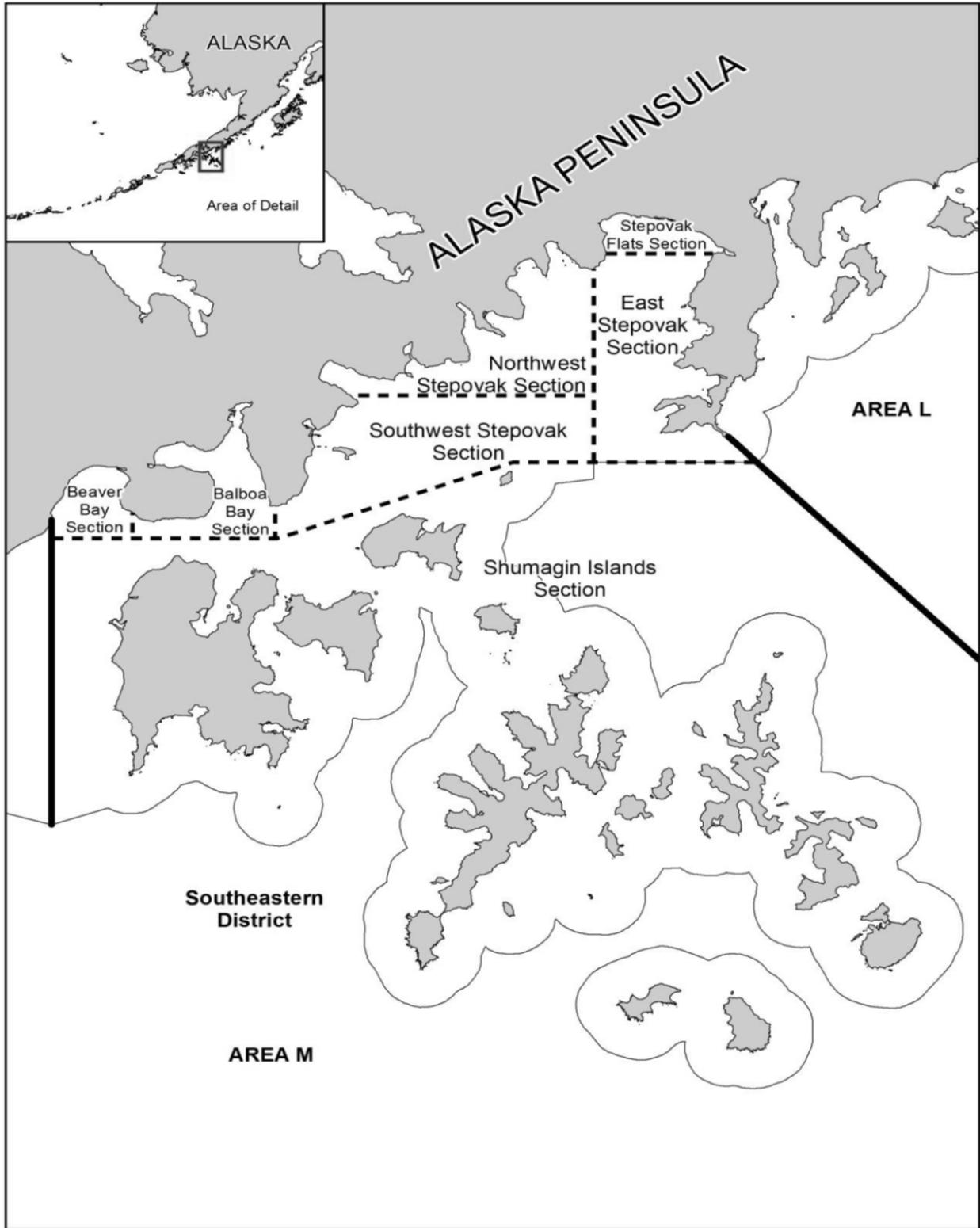


Figure 116-2.—Map of the Southeastern District of Registration Area M.

**PROPOSAL 117 – Amend the fishing districts, sections, and subsections to increase fishing time and area by creating new sections in outside waters of the Chignik Management Area.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** United Chignik Salmon Fishermen..

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend the fishing districts, sections, and subsections by creating new outer sections further from inner bays in the Eastern District of the Chignik Management Area (Figures 117-1, 117-2).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current statistical areas encompass smaller sections of the inner bays.

According to the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, based on sockeye salmon escapement goals. From June 26 through July 8, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District is dependent on the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. From the end of the transition period until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon. After July 31, the Eastern District is managed based on the evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** The effect of this changes the already established section lines. The department has the ability to change lines based on run strength. Total fishing area would remain unchanged.

**BACKGROUND:** Current statistical areas were put into effect in 2016. These changes increased the total number of statistical areas and created statistical areas based around the inner bays. While inner bay statistical areas within the Eastern District have been opened to target pink and chum salmon during poor sockeye salmon return in 2019 and 2021, there have not been any instances of exclusively opening outer statistical areas within recent history. Statistical areas are established by the department for catch reporting purposes and are not adopted in regulation.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The department is also opposed to Proposal 114, which is tied into this proposal, due to conservation concerns as described in Proposal 114.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

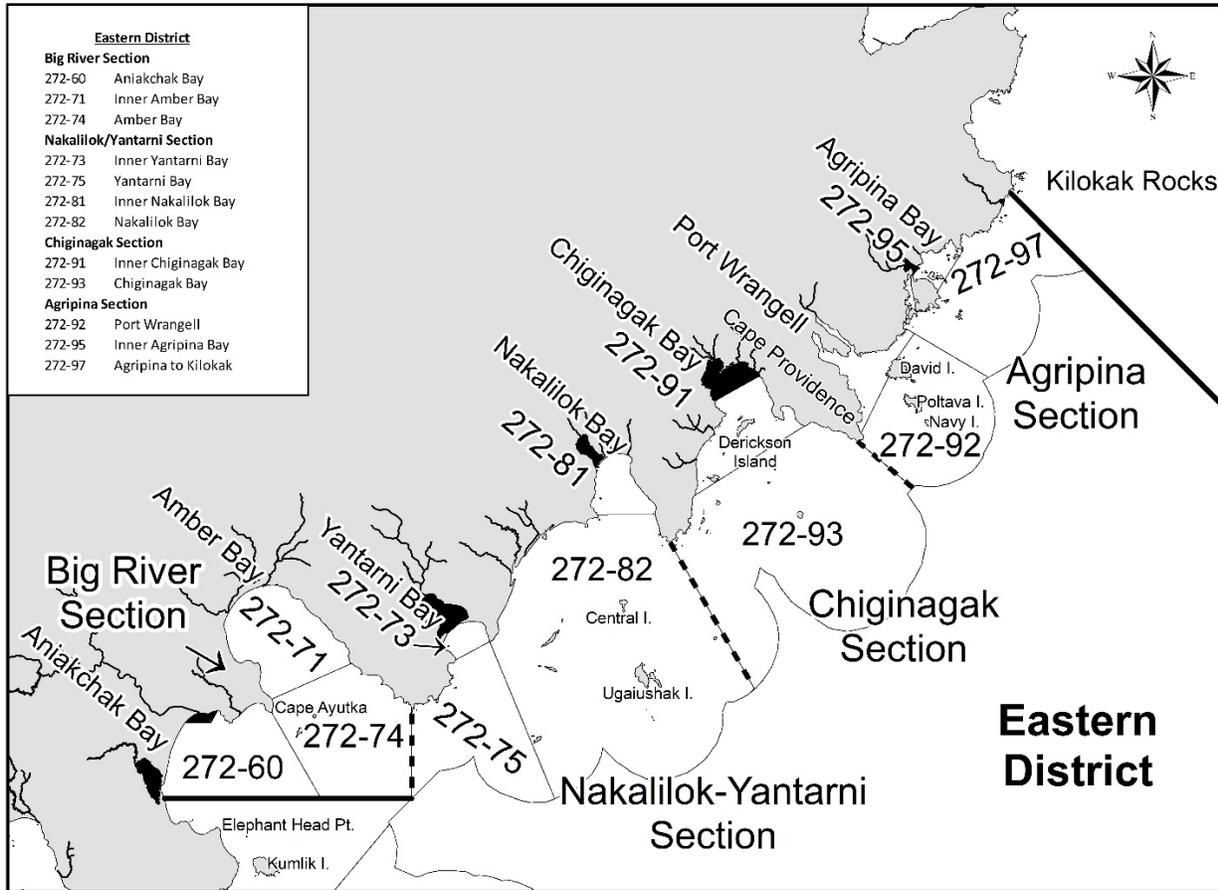


Figure 117-1.—Map of the Eastern District.

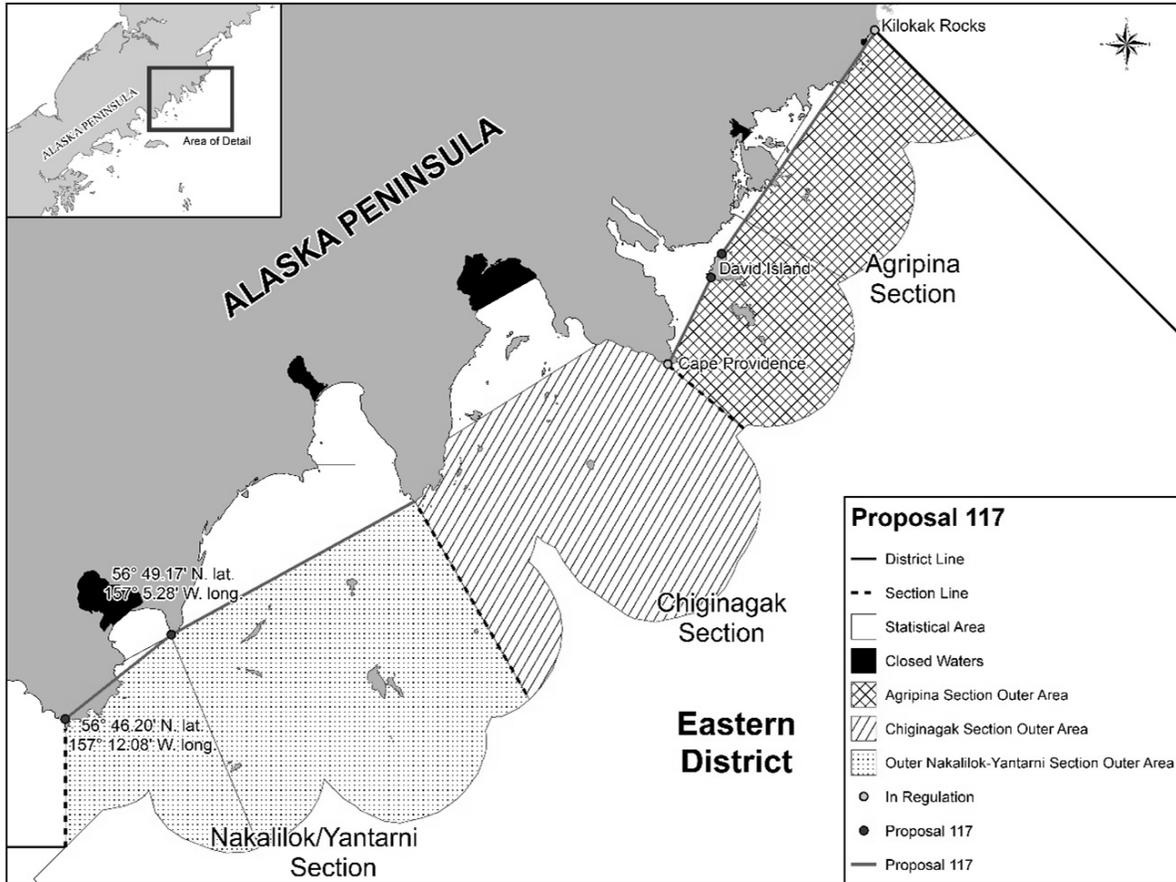


Figure 117-2.—Map of the Eastern District with suggested subsections.

**PROPOSAL 118 – Amend the districts, sections and subsections and the management plan to increase commercial fishing time and area in the Western and Perryville Districts in August.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel S. Kopun.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Modify the structure of the Western and Perryville Districts (Figures 118-1, 118-2 and 118-3). From August 1 to August 31, fishing periods in the Outer Castle Cape Subsection, Chankliut Island Subsection, Outer Kuiukta Bay Subsection, Mitrofanina Island Subsection, Outer Perryville Subsection, and the Outer Humpback Bay Subsection shall be managed based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks or the strength of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon run. From August 1 to August 31, fishing periods in the Devil’s Bay Subsection, Inner Kuiukta/Portage Bay Subsection, Windy Bay Subsection, Dorner Bay Subsection, Mitrofanina Bay Subsection, Fishrack Bay Subsection, Ivan Bay Subsection, Coal Cape Subsection, Inner Perryville Subsection, Inner Humpback Bay Subsection, and the Ivanof Bay Section shall be managed based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks. After August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks (Figure 118-4).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357), from July 6 until mid-July, commercial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are predominately based on late-run sockeye salmon escapement to the Chignik River. From mid-July until the end of the commercial salmon fishing season, the Western and Perryville Districts are managed based on the department’s evaluation of local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the Chignik River late-run sockeye salmon run. In August and September, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts are based on Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and local pink, coho, and chum salmon abundance. Inner bay fisheries, or fisheries north of the Cape Itki line (Figure 118-1), may occur in August in areas with adequate pink and chum salmon abundance to warrant fisheries with the possibility of extended fishing time. Districtwide openers will not occur unless the Chignik River is meeting interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives (including the IRRG) and overall pink and chum salmon abundance is sufficient to meet Western and Perryville Districts’ escapement objectives. The Chignik River has an IRRG of 10,000 sockeye salmon for the months of August and September independently.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would adjust the Perryville and Western Districts of the CMA with the intent to create sections separated by high and low sockeye salmon passage. This may allow for more targeted fishing periods within the Western and Perryville Districts during years of low sockeye salmon returns. Depending on how many sockeye salmon are harvested within the allowed terminal areas this may also reduce fishing time within the Central and Chignik Bay Districts.

**BACKGROUND:** The Western and Perryville Districts typically open during early to mid-July, largely to target local pink and chum salmon stocks. While most effort takes place in July and August, the season can extend through October to target coho salmon. Since 2008, there have been 3 years in which harvest has occurred in September, and none in October. Pink salmon harvest for

the month of August in the Western and Perryville Districts has ranged from 0 fish to 4,625,437 fish in recent years. Chum salmon harvest has ranged from 0 to 119,674 fish, and sockeye salmon harvest has ranged from 0 to 154,382 during this same period (Table 118-1).

The CMA pink and chum salmon fisheries have historically been based on harvest information and inseason aerial assessment of escapement into local streams.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. This proposal is unlikely to create any biological or management concerns in the CMA. The department is concerned about one change within the proposal, which is the proposed Devils Bay subsection. There are no significant pink or chum salmon systems within this subsection. The department would prefer that this subsection be based on sockeye salmon escapement or pink and chum salmon abundance.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 118-1.–Harvest during August within the Western and Perryville Districts excluding the Inner Castle subsection, by year, 2008–2022.

Year	Harvest			
	Sockeye salmon	Coho salmon	Pink salmon	Chum salmon
2008	23,631	50,873	762,463	38,458
2009	4,075	22,289	152,156	14,523
2010	12,216	41,449	91,634	59,537
2011	29,505	33,451	456,789	43,380
2012	4,858	10,861	40,976	20,062
2013	9,792	5,724	282,640	7,692
2014	94,192	58,431	132,408	12,952
2015	154,382	15,178	831,526	19,953
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	149,623	180,645	4,625,437	119,674
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	79,772	82,304	843,686	38,253
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	49,975	73,073	1,105,836	22,783
2022	24,842	22,763	601,181	25,993
Averages				
15-year	42,458	39,803	661,782	28,217
10-year	56,258	43,812	842,271	24,730
5-year	30,918	35,628	510,141	17,406

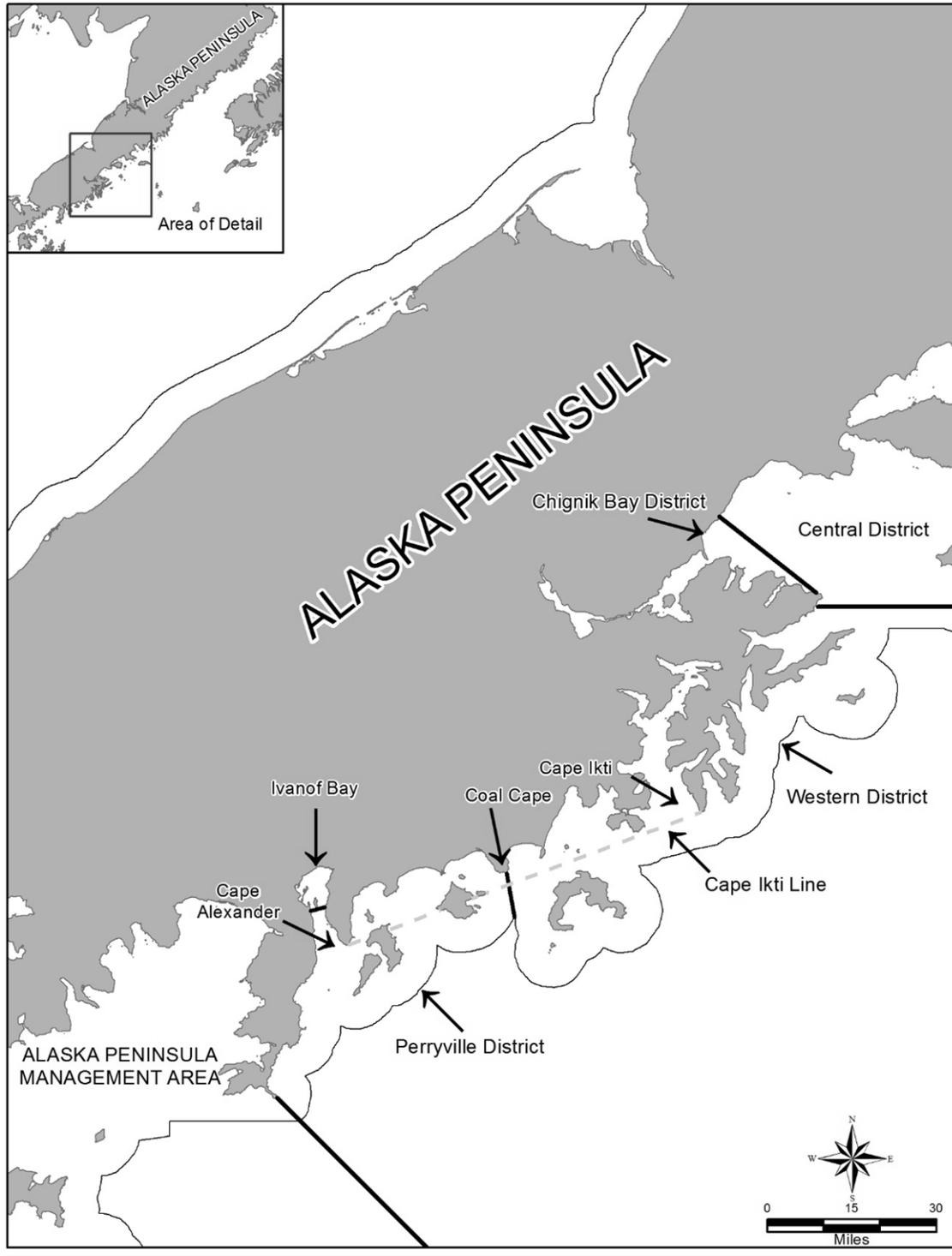


Figure 118-1.-Map of the Western and Perryville Districts.

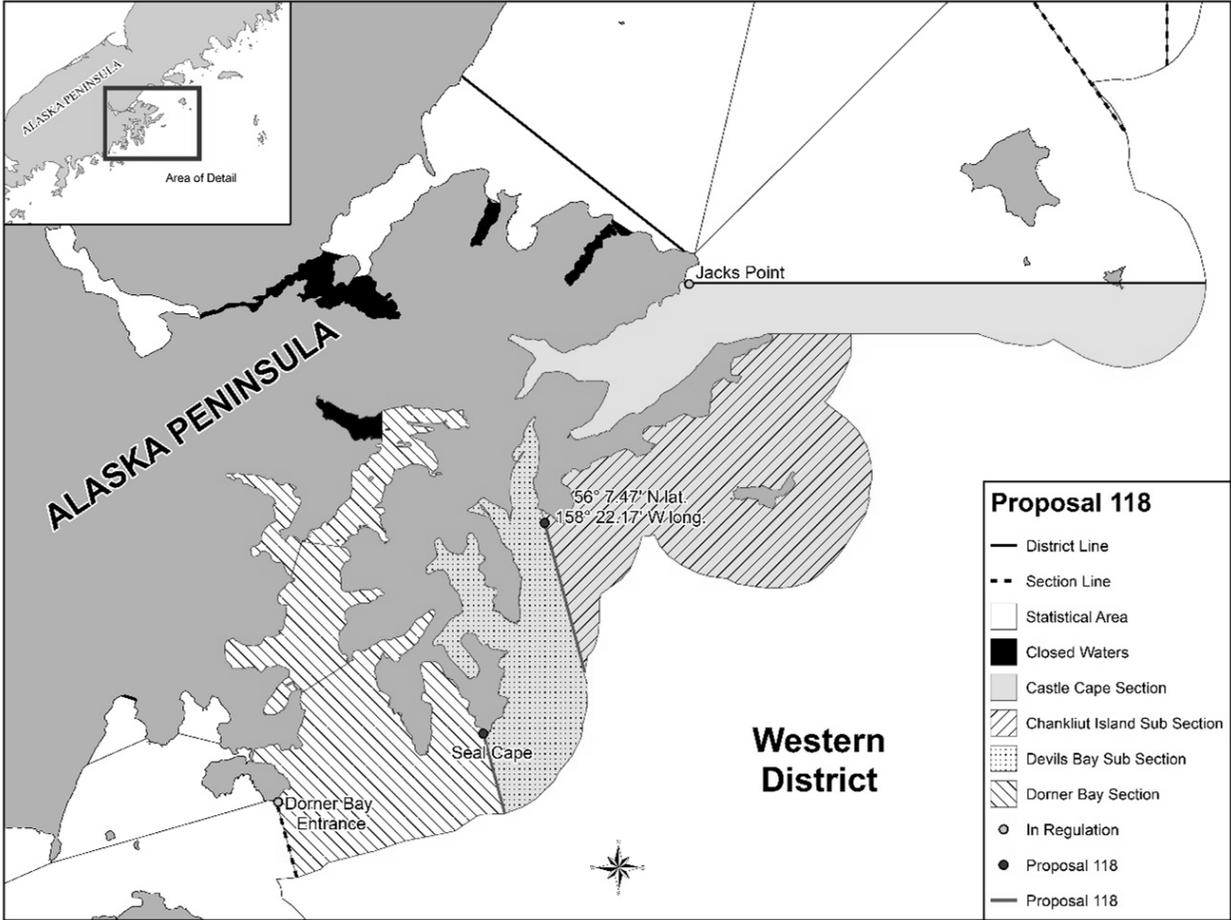


Figure 118-2.—Map of the Western District showing proposed changes.

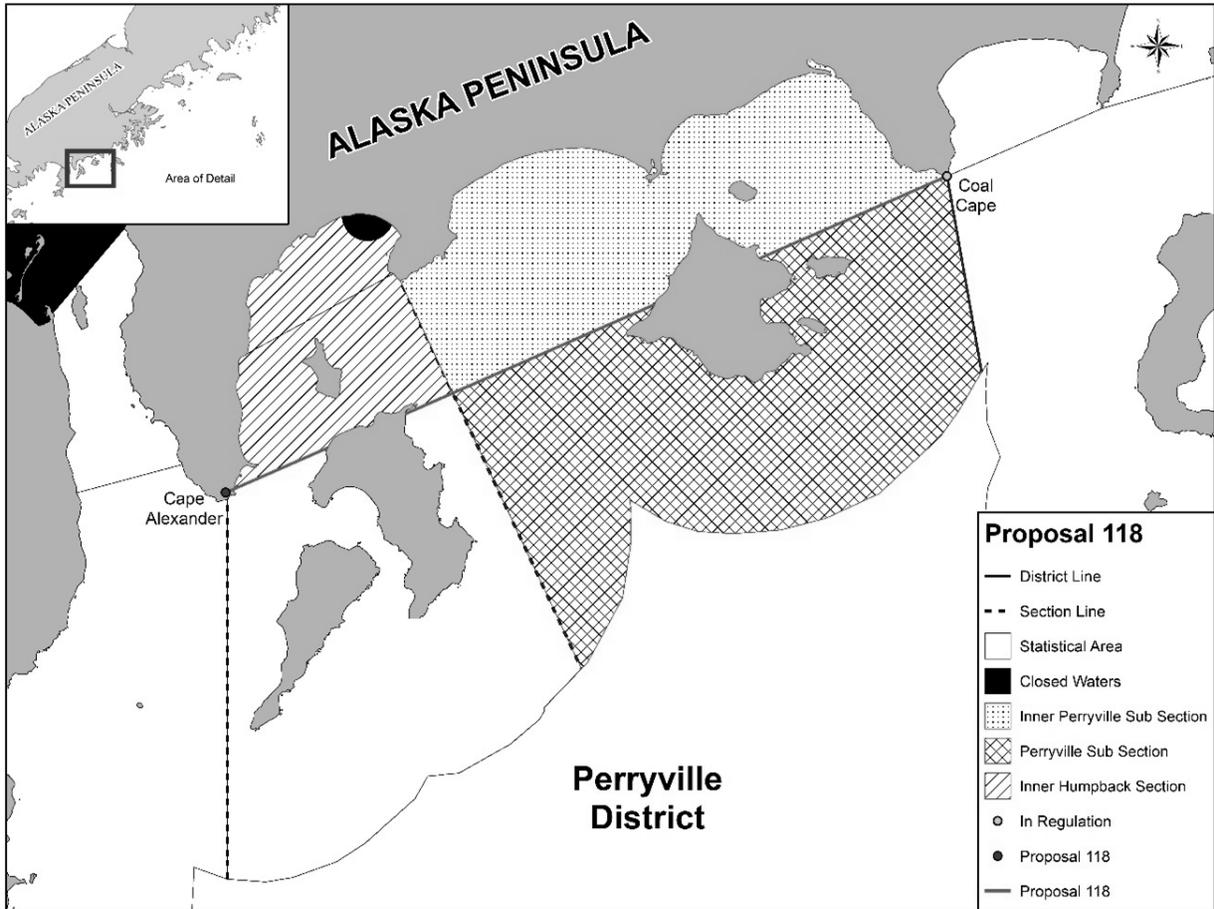


Figure 118-3.—Map of the Perryville District showing proposed changes.

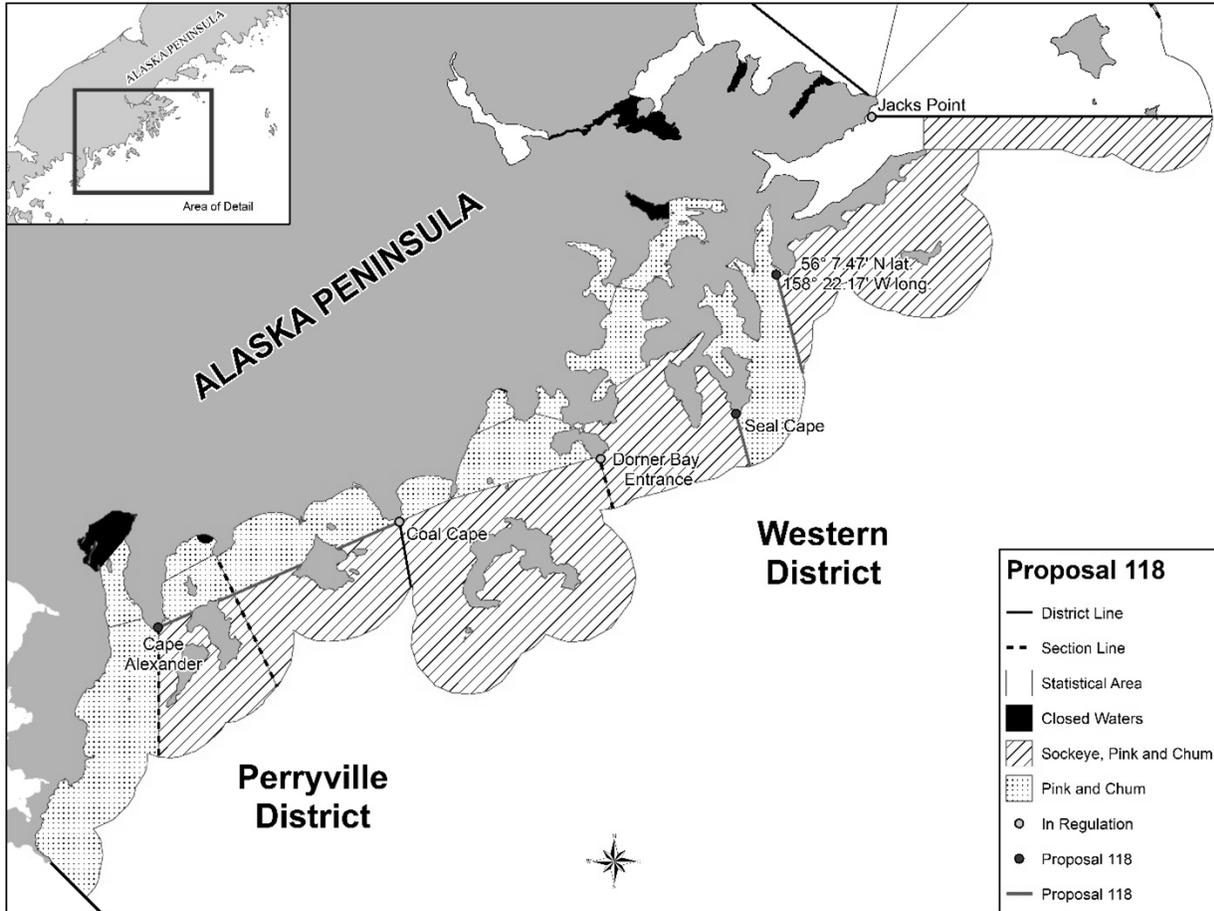


Figure 118-4.-Map of the Western and Perryville Districts showing proposed regulatory changes.

**PROPOSAL 119 – Amend allowable gear in the Chignik Management Area to include troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery and amend regulations in Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery to include the Chignik Management Area.**

**5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Benjamin Allen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This allows commercial fishing for salmon in the CMA with troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery, and amend regulations in Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery to include the CMA. Although unclear, the proposal implies that any Chignik salmon purse seine Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) limited entry permit (S01L) holder would be able to use troll gear.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Salmon may only be taken in the CMA by purse seine and hand purse seine.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would create a commercial salmon troll fishery in the CMA targeting coho salmon, although other salmon species such as king salmon would likely be harvested. Given the limited history of multiple gear types in the CMA, the overall effect of this proposal on local and nonlocal salmon stocks is uncertain. It is unknown how many permit holders would participate in a troll fishery although it is likely that fishing pressure on local and non-local coho and king salmon stocks would increase. Currently there are 87 valid CFEC limited entry purse seine permits in the Chignik fishery. In recent years, over half of the CMA salmon permits have not been active.

The CFEC issues fishing permits for Alaska’s commercial salmon fisheries. Additional CFEC regulation changes may need to be proposed and adopted. CFEC salmon troll permits are statewide permits, and it is unclear if these permits would also be eligible for a CMA salmon troll fishery.

On a larger scale, instituting a commercial troll fishery west of Cape Suckling may have far-reaching effects. The United States and Canada formed the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) in 1985. While much of their concern is directed at king salmon stocks that migrate through northern Gulf of Alaska waters, there is also concern for other salmon species. Thus, representatives of the United States and Canada signed the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Under Chapter 7, General Obligations, the treaty states that neither party shall initiate new intercepting fisheries nor conduct or redirect fisheries in a manner that intentionally increases interceptions. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) salmon fisheries management plan for the Gulf of Alaska recognizes that regulations for Alaska salmon fisheries are adopted by the board, but also states that regulations should be consistent with state and federal laws and with negotiated agreements of the PSC. Further, the federal salmon fisheries management plan defers management of commercial troll fisheries to the state and the PSC.

The CMA is in the path of Pacific salmon that seasonally migrate through the Gulf of Alaska. Nonlocal stocks of coho and king salmon are likely present, but their origin, migratory timing, abundance, and residence time are not known with any degree of certainty. It is likely that the initiation of a troll fishery in the Chignik Area would be considered as a possible new or redirected fishery that could lead to increased interceptions.

**BACKGROUND:** Commercial trolling for salmon has never been documented in the Chignik Area. Since 1955, only purse seines and hand purse seines have been legal gear. Chignik salmon fisheries became limited entry in 1975, and only seine gear was institutionalized at that time. Chignik Area salmon harvest strategies and management plans have been developed around gear types and effort levels put in place at that time.

There are approximately 55 streams in the CMA known to produce coho salmon. However, the department's ability to monitor coho salmon escapement is limited due to their late-season run timing. Most systems are small and remote, and escapements are primarily estimated by aerial survey apart from coho salmon that are counted at the Chignik River weir, although the majority of the coho salmon run occurs after the weir is dismantled. Since the weir is removed while the coho salmon run is still building, escapement estimates are considered incomplete and escapement objectives are not established.

The annual potential production of wild stock coho salmon in the CMA is unknown. Peak coho salmon harvest occurred in the 1990s when approximately 186,000 fish were harvested annually. Currently, most coho salmon are taken incidentally during sockeye and pink salmon fisheries, although Chignik River coho salmon have been minimally targeted later in the season. Most coho salmon are harvested in the Western District during late July and August.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends deferral of this proposal, instead asking for Board direction. The department would require substantial lead time prior to prosecuting a commercial salmon troll fishery in order to assess the effects of troll gear and effort on local and nonlocal stocks, particularly on local king salmon stocks. If adopted, the department would need significant direction from the board, CFEC, and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate the complexity of this proposal with regard to statewide trolling regulations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in additional direct costs for a private person to participate in this fishery should fishers adopt troll gear. Approval of this proposal would also likely result in an additional cost to the department. Little is known about coho salmon within the CMA and additional resources would be required to manage a troll fishery.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 3: NORTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON (10 PROPOSALS)**

### *North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (10 proposals)*

#### **PROPOSAL 120 – Modify fishing periods in the Northern District.**

**5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark McNeley.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would institute windows and mandatory fishery closures, in Northern District fisheries.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Under 5 AAC 09.369 (a), *Northern District Fisheries Management Plan*, king, sockeye, pink, chum, and coho salmon are managed using guidelines provided under this regulation.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would impose mandatory windows or closures throughout Northern District fisheries from June 1 through July 15. According to this proposal, fishing time within Nelson River, Port Moller Bight, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden Sections will be tied to both the Nelson River and Bear River having achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals throughout the season before fishing could occur, and it would also institute mandatory four-day closures from June 1 – June 19 and three-day closures from June 20 – July 15 for the entire North Alaska Peninsula. Unlike the existing abundance-based management plan, lost harvest opportunity and surplus escapement would likely occur under this proposal, since it is expected that a mandatory closure specified in regulation would allow more fish to migrate into rivers and likely exceed escapement goals.

**BACKGROUND:** Northern District (Figure 120-1) stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof and encompasses many different fisheries, including chum and pink salmon fisheries in Herendeen and Port Moller Bays; sockeye salmon fisheries in Black Hills, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Outer Port Heiden, and Inner Port Heiden; and king and coho salmon fisheries in the Cinder River Section. The board adopted 5 AAC 09.369 in the 1990s to establish guidelines for the department to manage commercial salmon fishing in the Northern District. Four salmon counting weirs, as well as aerial surveys, are used to estimate run strength which dictates the department's management strategy. When runs are strong, more fishing opportunity is provided to maintain escapement objectives without exceeding objectives and goals (Table 120-1 and 120-2). When salmon runs are below escapement objectives, closures occur to try and increase escapement. These types of "windows" already occur, and mandatory windows when the runs are strong would allow more fish to enter rivers and potentially exceed escapement goals. Such windows would reduce the department's ability to control escapement. Furthermore, under current management, Northern District escapement goals have consistently been met.

In 2013, over concern for Nelson and Bear Rivers sockeye salmon stocks the board implemented sequential closures of the area from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi occurring during one 24-hour period per

week; starting in the northern portion of the Ilnik Section and working from the northeast to the southwest toward Nelson and Bear rivers, figure 120-2 illustrates the areas affected by rolling closures. The intent of the closures was to allow fish bound for the Nelson and Bear Rivers that were migrating from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi offshore to migrate through the five areas by closing the first area to the northeast for 24 hours and then after 24 hours the area to the southwest would have a closure from 1.5 nmi to 3 nmi, and the area that was previously only open to 1.5 nmi would reopen back out to 3 nmi. This would occur in five areas thus potentially allowing fishing to enter Bear and Nelson Rivers. After five years this provision of the management plan sunset on December 31, 2018. There is no data from WASSIP that shows the stock composition of the catches in these areas inside 3 nmi and inside 1.5 nmi. However, Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute did conduct a stock-specific composition study of the Outer Port Heiden and the Ilnik Section in 2014 and 2015 and found no difference in the stock composition inside 3 nmi and inside 1.5 nmi. Additional information on this study can be found in “Estimating the Stock Composition in the Sockeye Salmon Fishery in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections of Alaska’s North Peninsula Fishery, 2014-15”. Appendix tables A3, A6, and A9 document the composition of specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2014-2015, in these fisheries.

Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in SP12-24, appendix tables F55–58. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** mandatory windows in the existing abundance-based management plan due to conservation concerns. Mandatory window would result in over-escapement and lost harvest opportunity.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 120-1.–Ten-year average (2013–2022) sockeye salmon harvest by day and section, June 1–July 15.

Date	Nelson Lagoon Section	Bear River Section	Three Hills Section	Ilnik Section	Outer Port Heiden Section
1 Jun	–	–	–	–	–
2 Jun	–	–	–	–	–
3 Jun	–	–	–	–	–
4 Jun	–	–	–	–	–
5 Jun	77	–	–	–	–
6 Jun	216	3	–	–	–
7 Jun	235	–	–	–	–
8 Jun	436	203	–	–	–
9 Jun	378	200	–	–	–
10 Jun	861	125	–	–	–
11 Jun	600	203	–	–	–
12 Jun	603	50	–	–	–
13 Jun	784	129	–	–	–
14 Jun	774	29	–	–	–
15 Jun	1,420	101	–	–	–
16 Jun	1,739	1,342	–	–	–
17 Jun	2,667	562	–	–	–
18 Jun	2,024	57	–	–	–
19 Jun	1,588	1,918	–	–	–
20 Jun	2,668	–	–	24,675	–
21 Jun	2,540	–	–	13,255	–
22 Jun	2,778	209	–	19,599	6,799
23 Jun	2,150	3,189	–	20,676	5,063
24 Jun	3,154	4,030	–	13,562	16,668
25 Jun	3,339	2,283	1,241	30,321	10,143
26 Jun	2,688	2,409	1,153	45,396	8,581
27 Jun	4,021	2,535	655	38,237	16,226
28 Jun	3,806	1,118	618	49,093	26,595
29 Jun	4,291	2,731	12,699	33,305	29,340
30 Jun	3,811	4,202	9,630	47,156	11,140
1 Jul	3,497	1,606	1,948	18,507	13,253
2 Jul	3,345	3,396	1,355	22,953	34,499
3 Jul	4,684	–	705	41,508	23,365
4 Jul	6,254	–	1,642	42,635	53,341
5 Jul	5,551	538	4,842	54,824	20,732
6 Jul	5,762	2,962	6,188	43,570	11,227
7 Jul	5,983	2,655	2,997	45,593	16,747
8 Jul	5,955	5,302	7,892	62,258	47,117
9 Jul	6,016	1,714	1,450	61,333	43,672
10 Jul	6,501	3,969	2,675	49,527	17,618
11 Jul	6,989	5,651	2,244	54,553	17,280
12 Jul	6,271	5,612	4,113	29,163	14,606
13 Jul	5,574	7,542	2,979	28,017	29,954
14 Jul	6,331	8,588	2,578	32,293	13,618
15 Jul	6,064	8,775	8,979	31,903	22,979

Table 120-2.—Ten-year average (2013-2022) cumulative sockeye escapement by day and weir, June 1–July 15.

Date	Nelson River weir	Cumulative escapement objective	Bear River weir	Cumulative escapement objective	Sandy River weir	Cumulative escapement objective	Ilnik River weir	Cumulative escapement objective
1 Jun	0		32		-		316	
2 Jun	0		59		-		436	
3 Jun	1		92		-		406	
4 Jun	1		171		-		571	
5 Jun	7		234		-		772	
6 Jun	9		365		0		914	
7 Jun	24		502		3		1,188	
8 Jun	420		622	4-8k	6		1,694	
9 Jun	540		952		9		2,240	
10 Jun	694		1,279		26		2,864	
11 Jun	1,104		1,697		58	2-3k	4,065	5-8k
12 Jun	1,413		2,416		97		5,256	
13 Jun	1,844		3,289		179		6,471	
14 Jun	2,429		4,517		313		8,997	
15 Jun	3,199		6,069		435		11,236	
16 Jun	4,300	30-60k	7,709		650		13,517	
17 Jun	6,151		9,901		1,053		16,237	
18 Jun	7,468		11,932	15-30k	1,593		18,070	
19 Jun	9,458		14,890		2,153		19,752	
20 Jun	10,628		18,505		2,841		22,056	
21 Jun	13,124		23,049		3,755		23,806	
22 Jun	16,054		28,500		4,499		25,720	
23 Jun	19,445		34,890	30-55k	5,911	6-11k	28,017	10-15k
24 Jun	24,095		40,739		7,777		30,207	
25 Jun	28,085		46,658		9,352		33,839	
26 Jun	32,473		50,333		11,258		36,927	
27 Jun	38,927		54,154		13,211		39,718	
28 Jun	46,475		59,650	60-115k	15,445	13-28k	42,779	15-25k
29 Jun	51,561		67,811		17,664		44,414	
30 Jun	56,921		76,735		19,780		46,143	
1 Jul	62,345		84,034		22,146		47,683	
2 Jul	69,050		90,193		25,100		50,031	
3 Jul	75,554	50-105k	98,081	90-165k	27,812	21-47k	54,430	20-35k
4 Jul	82,161		107,956		29,766		58,502	
5 Jul	88,966		118,976		32,098		61,552	
6 Jul	97,980		132,911		34,871		64,438	
7 Jul	105,677		148,541		37,684		66,831	
8 Jul	112,005	70-155k	161,899	115-200k	40,950	26-60k	69,558	30-45k
9 Jul	120,839		177,494		44,021		71,998	
10 Jul	126,374		193,604		47,143		74,954	
11 Jul	133,276		206,100		50,347		77,484	
12 Jul	138,791		220,493		53,488		81,695	
13 Jul	144,688	85-185k	232,938	130-230k	56,312	29-67k	83,213	35-50k
14 Jul	152,985		240,825		59,023		84,512	
15 Jul	159,851		250,273		60,995		85,658	

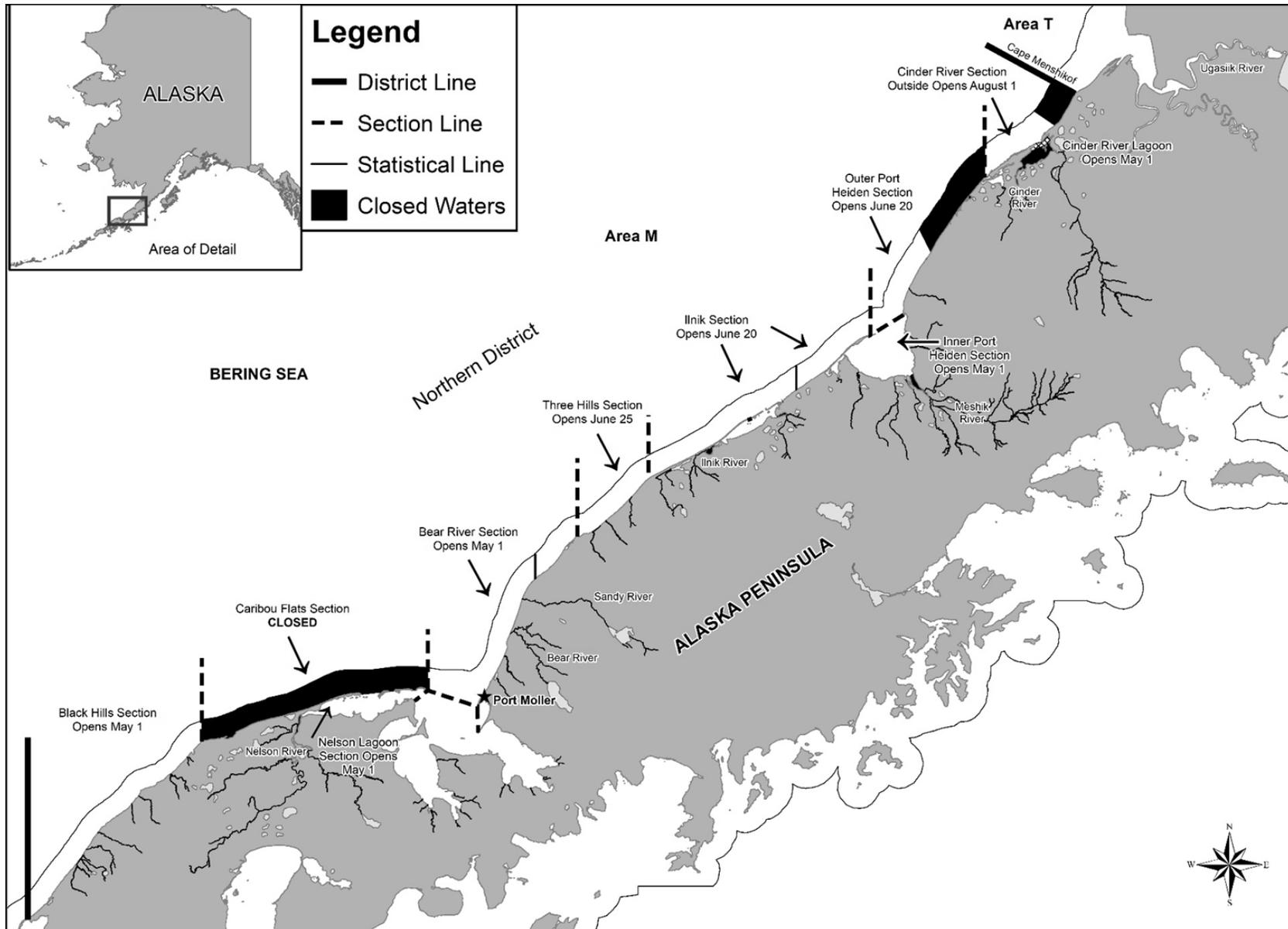


Figure 120-1.—Northern District showing fishing sections and opening dates of the commercial salmon fisheries.

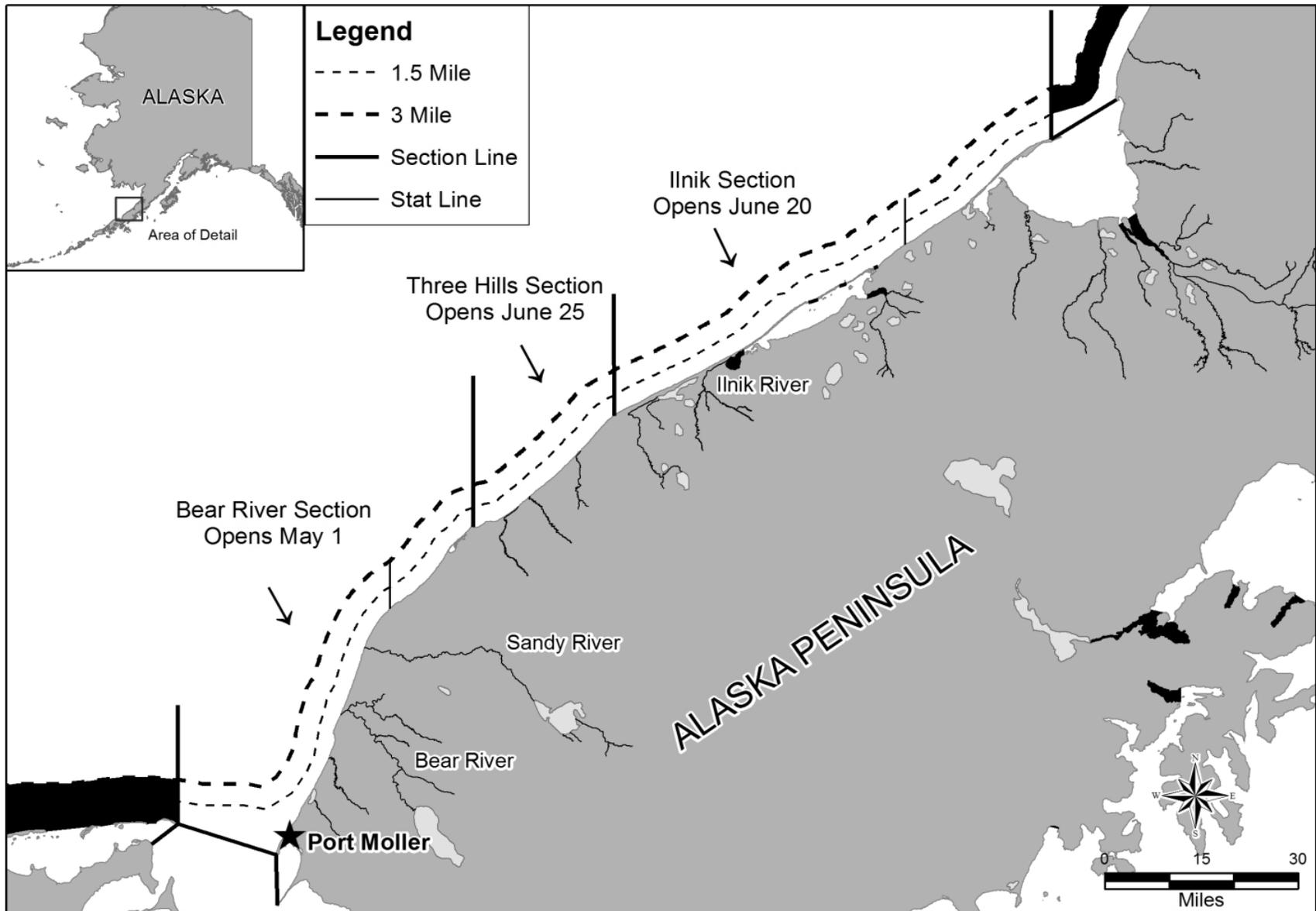


Figure 120-2.—Statistical areas under the effect of rolling closures from 2014-2018.

**PROPOSAL 121 – Amend the fishing season in the Three Hills Section to increase potential fishing time and aligning sections to similar fishing periods.**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would allow the department to open the Three Hills Section to commercial salmon fishing as early as June 20 and change the commercial salmon fishing season opening date from June 25 to June 20.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(4)) states that the Three Hills Section is open from June 25 through September 30. The current regulation found under 5 AAC 09.310 (a)(3)(C) and 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(1) opens the commercial salmon fishing season in the Three Hills Section on June 25. Before July 21, the Three Hills Section is managed based on Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers sockeye salmon stocks. If concern exists for sockeye salmon in Bear, Sandy, or Ilnik Rivers, then a portion of the Three Hills Section may close to help meet those escapement goals.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The date at which the Three Hills Section could open would be moved from June 25 to June 20. This proposal would give the department increased ability to control the sockeye salmon escapement into the Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers when strong escapements occur early in the season, allowing additional harvest opportunities between June 20 and June 24 (Table 121-1 and 121-2).

**BACKGROUND:** The Three Hills Section is actively managed based on escapements into Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers. Before July 21, when strong escapements are occurring into the Bear, Sandy, and Ilnik Rivers, the Three Hills Section is opened to harvest opportunities.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 121-1. –Average sockeye harvest (2013-2022) by section from June 20 to June 25.

Average sockeye salmon harvest by day (2013-2022)				
Date	Bear River Section	Three Hills Section	Ilnik Section	Outer Port Heiden Section
20 Jun	–	–	24,675	–
21 Jun	–	–	13,255	–
22 Jun	209	–	19,599	6,799
23 Jun	3,189	–	20,676	5,063
24 Jun	4,030	–	13,562	16,668
25 Jun	2,283	1,241	30,321	10,143

Table 121-2. –Average cumulative sockeye escapement (2013-2022) by weir from June 20 to June 25.

Average cumulative sockeye escapement (2013-2022)						
Date	Bear River weir	Weekly escapement objective	Sandy River Weir	Weekly escapement objective	Ilnik River weir	Weekly escapement objective
20 Jun	18,206		2,767		19,522	
21 Jun	22,425		3,647		20,947	
22 Jun	27,562	30–55k	4,408		22,469	10–15k
23 Jun	33,880		5,618		24,313	
24 Jun	39,310		7,353		26,512	
25 Jun	45,122		8,958	6-11k	30,517	

**PROPOSAL 122 – Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section.**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** These proposals would allow registration Area M drift and set gillnet permit holders to fish 36 hours per week in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 if there are no conservation concerns for sockeye salmon in the Ugashik or Cinder River systems (Figure 122-1).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)) states that salmon may be taken in the Cinder River Section from May 1 through September 30, but only within the waters of the lagoon into which Cinder River drains that are inside a line across the lagoon entrance from lat 57° 21.14'N, long 158° 06.82'W to lat 57° 21.46'N, long 158° 04.68'W (Figure 122-1). The rest of the Cinder River Section is only open from August 1 through September 30. Fishing periods, under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), are from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and legal gear types in the Cinder River Section are drift gillnets or set gillnets (5 AAC 09.330(a)(1)). Commercial salmon fishing is not permitted in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section during June and July. Both Area M and Area T permit holders are allowed to fish during fishing periods in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section (Cinder River Lagoon) prior to August 1, and in the entire Cinder River Section beginning August 1.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would allow registration Area M drift and set gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for salmon in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 and harvest sockeye salmon bound for Cinder River, a system that does not have a directed sockeye salmon fishery on it. The Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement goal is less likely to be exceeded as has been occurring (Table 122-1). Also, there will be Bristol Bay sockeye salmon harvested in this area and it is expected that Ugashik River stocks would be the major Bristol Bay stocks harvested due to the proximity of the Ugashik River to Cinder River. Currently, only the inner lagoon portion of the Cinder River Section is open during June and July. The fishing period would be 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Friday and based on sockeye salmon escapement into Cinder River. Language is included for the protection of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, similar to language in other North Peninsula fishing areas such as the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections (5 AAC 09.369(l)).

**BACKGROUND:** The outer portion of the Cinder River Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from August 1 to September 30 under a 2.5-day weekly fishing period. The Cinder River Lagoon Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from May 1 to September 30. The sockeye salmon run to the Cinder River system likely starts in early June and ends in the latter part of July. Since 2016, the escapement goal of 36,000–94,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded six times, with over 100,000 fish entering the river in all but two years (Table 122-1). Although weekly fishing periods do occur during June and July, there has been limited harvest in the Cinder River Section since statehood. The Cinder River Section is part of the overlap area which allows Registration Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in certain areas within the Alaska

Peninsula Management Area (Figure 122-1). The overlap area consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Registration Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Registration Area M. Prior to the start of limited entry, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Registration Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Registration Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Prior to 2013, Registration Area T permit holders were allowed to fish, except during July, during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River Sections. Registration Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Registration Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections. In 1990, the board excluded Registration Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September) and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Registration Area M and Registration Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). Since 2001, effort by Registration Area T permit holders in the overlap area has been minimal. In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the effort during August and September in the Cinder River Section has been from Registration Area T permit holders. In 2013, the board allowed Area T permit holders to fish during June and July in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden Sections, but no effort has occurred. Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Neither the Outer Cinder River nor the Cinder River Lagoon Sections (Figure 122-1) were included under the WASSIP sampling plan (report SP11-10, Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program) because no fishery occurred. Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in SP12-24, appendix tables F40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of these proposals but **SUPPORTS** the adoption of additional tools to harvest sockeye salmon surplus to escapement needs.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of these proposals is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of these proposals is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

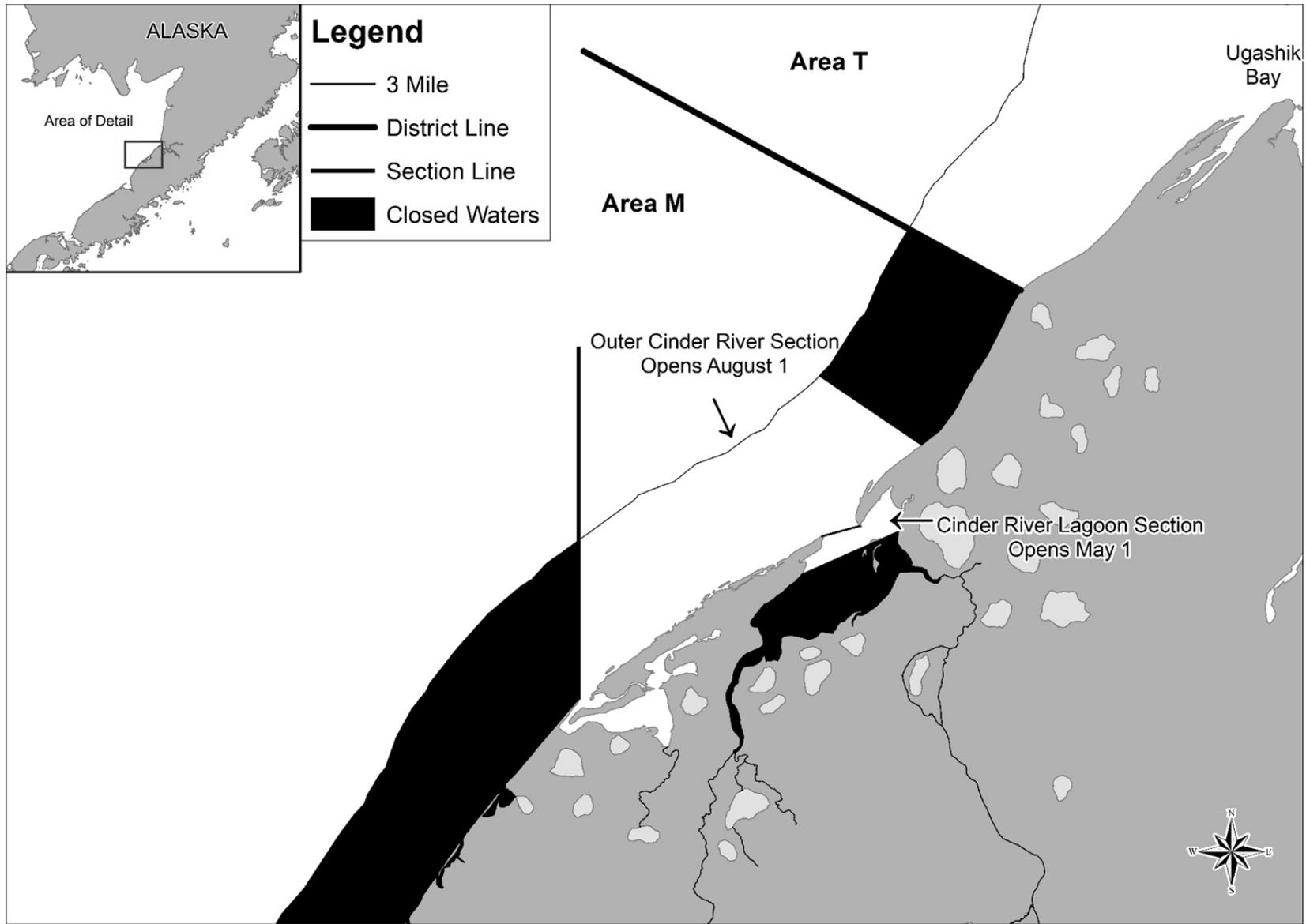


Figure 122-1.—Map of Cinder River Section.

Table 122-1. –Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2013–2022

Year	Harvest	Escapement	Goal
2013	0	95,500	
2014	0	105,000	12,000–48,000
2015	0	132,600	
2016	0	205,700	
2017	0	234,800	
2018	0	191,300	
2019	0	95,775	36,000–94,000
2020	0	124,000	
2021	0	59,400	
2022	0	120,900	
2013–2022 Average	0	136,498	

**PROPOSAL 123 – Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section.**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Dia Kuzmin.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would allow Registration Area M set gillnet permit holders to fish in the Cinder River Section starting July 1 within 0.5 mile of the beach. (Figure 123-1).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)) states that salmon may be taken in the Cinder River Section from May 1 through September 30, but only within the waters of the lagoon into which Cinder River drains that are inside a line across the lagoon entrance from 57° 21.14' N. lat., 158° 06.82' W. long. to 57° 21.46' N. lat., 158° 04.68' W. long. (Figure 123-1). The rest of the Cinder River Section is only open from August 1 through September 30. Fishing periods, under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), are from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and legal gear types in the Cinder River Section are drift gillnets or set gillnets (5 AAC 09.330(a)(1)). Commercial salmon fishing is not permitted in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section during June and July. Both Area M and Area T permit holders are allowed to fish during fishing periods in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section (Cinder River Lagoon) prior to August 1, and in the entire Cinder River Section beginning August 1.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would allow registration Area M set gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for salmon in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section within 0.5 miles of the beach starting on July 1 and harvest sockeye salmon bound for Cinder River, a system that has not supported a directed sockeye salmon fishery previously. The Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement goal is less likely to be exceeded as has been occurring (Table 123-1). Also, there will be Bristol Bay sockeye salmon harvested in this area and it is expected that Ugashik River stocks would be the major Bristol Bay stock harvested due to the proximity of the Ugashik River to Cinder River. Currently, only the inner lagoon portion of the Cinder River Section is open during June and July.

**BACKGROUND:** The outer portion of the Cinder River Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from August 1 to September 30 under a 2.5-day weekly fishing period. The Cinder River Lagoon Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from May 1 to September 30. The sockeye salmon run to the Cinder River system likely starts in early June and ends in the latter part of July. Since 2016, the escapement goal of 36,000–94,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded six times, with over 100,000 fish entering the river in all but two years (Table 123-1). Although weekly fishing periods do occur during June and July, there has been limited harvest in the Cinder River Section since statehood. The Cinder River Section is part of the overlap area which allows Registration Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in certain areas within the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Figure 123-1). The overlap area consists of the Cinder River Section, Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Registration Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Registration Area M. Prior to the start of limited entry, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Registration Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point

Registration Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Prior to 2013, Registration Area T permit holders were allowed to fish, except during July, during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River Sections. Registration Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Registration Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections. In 1990, the board excluded Registration Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September), and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Registration Area M and Registration Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). Since 2001, effort by Registration Area T permit holders in the overlap area has been minimal. In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the effort during August and September in the Cinder River Section has been from Registration Area T permit holders. In 2013, the board allowed Registration Area T permit holders to fish during June and July in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden Sections but no effort has occurred. Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Neither the Outer Cinder River nor the Cinder River Lagoon Sections (Figure 123-1) were included under the WASSIP sampling plan (report SP11-10, Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program). Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in SP12-24, appendix tables F40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal but **SUPPORTS** adoption of additional tools to harvest sockeye salmon surplus to escapement needs.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

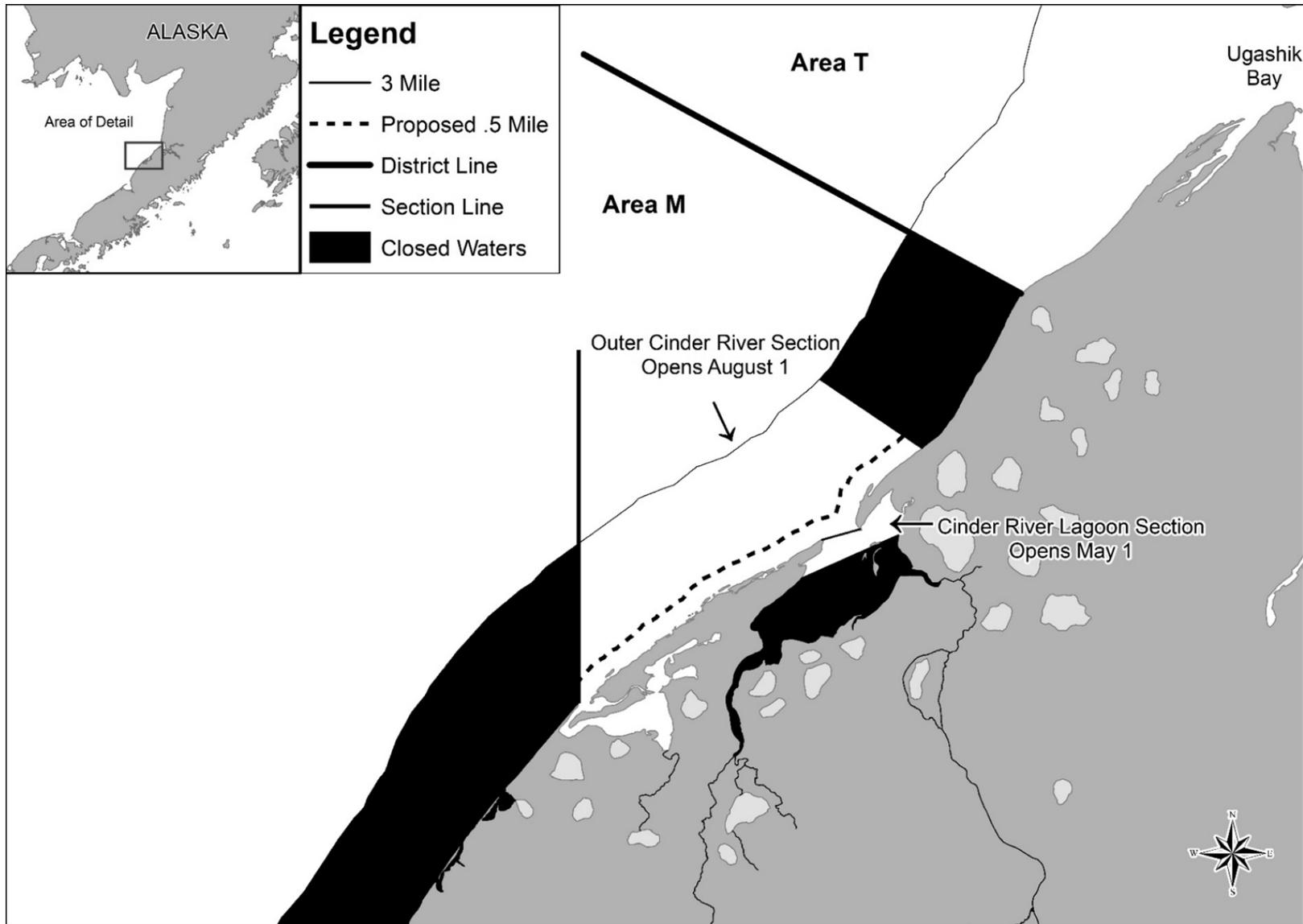


Figure 123-1.—Map of Cinder River Section.

Table 123-1. –Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2013–2022.

Year	Harvest	Escapement	Goal
2013	0	95,500	
2014	0	105,000	12,000–48,000
2015	0	132,600	
2016	0	205,700	
2017	0	234,800	
2018	0	191,300	
2019	0	95,775	36,000–94,000
2020	0	124,000	
2021	0	59,400	
2022	0	120,900	
2013–2022 Average	0	136,498	

**PROPOSAL 124 – Amend fishing seasons, fishing periods and gear to allow more commercial fishing time to all Registration Area M gear types in the Cinder River Section.**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow registration Area M drift and set gillnet permit holders to fish 36 hours per week in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 if there are no conservation concerns for sockeye salmon in the Ugashik or Cinder River systems (Figure 124-1).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)) states that salmon may be taken in the Cinder River Section from May 1 through September 30, but only within the waters of the lagoon into which Cinder River drains that are inside a line across the lagoon entrance from lat 57° 21.14'N, long 158° 06.82'W to lat 57° 21.46'N, long 158° 04.68'W. (Figure 124-1). The rest of the Cinder River Section is only open from August 1 through September 30. Fishing periods, under 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), are from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and legal gear types in the Cinder River Section are drift gillnets or set gillnets (5 AAC 09.330(a)(1)). Commercial salmon fishing is not permitted in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section during June and July. Both Area M and Area T permit holders are allowed to fish during fishing periods in the inner portion of the Cinder River Section (Cinder River Lagoon) prior to August 1, and in the entire Cinder River Section beginning August 1.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSALS WERE ADOPTED?** These proposals would allow registration Area M drift and set gillnet permit holders to commercially fish for salmon in the outer portion of the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31 and harvest sockeye salmon bound for Cinder River, a system that does not have a directed sockeye salmon fishery on it. The Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement goal is less likely to be exceeded as has been occurring (Table 123-1). Also, there will be Bristol Bay sockeye salmon harvested in this area and it is expected that Ugashik River stocks would be the major Bristol Bay stocks harvested due to the proximity of the Ugashik River to Cinder River. Currently, only the inner lagoon portion of the Cinder River Section is open during June and July. The fishing period would be 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Friday and based on sockeye salmon escapement into Cinder River. Language is included for the protection of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, similar to language in other North Peninsula fishing areas such as the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections (5 AAC 09.369(1)).

**BACKGROUND:** The outer portion of the Cinder River Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from August 1 to September 30 under a 2.5-day weekly fishing period. The Cinder River Lagoon Section is open to commercial salmon fishing from May 1 to September 30. The sockeye salmon run to the Cinder River system likely starts in early June and ends in the latter part of July. Since 2016, the escapement goal of 36,000–94,000 sockeye salmon has been exceeded six times, with over 100,000 fish entering the river in all but two years (Table 123-1). Although weekly fishing periods do occur during June and July, there has been limited harvest in the Cinder River Section since statehood. The Cinder River Section is part of the overlap area which allows Registration Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders to fish in certain areas within the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Figure 124-1). The overlap area consists of the Cinder River Section,

Inner Port Heiden Section, and Ilnik Lagoon (5 AAC 39.120(d)). The overlap area was created shortly after statehood to allow Registration Area T permit holders the opportunity to fish within their traditional harvest locations of Registration Area M. Prior to the start of limited entry, when not participating in the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisheries, Port Heiden Registration Area T permit holders fished for king and coho salmon in the Inner Port Heiden Section, and Pilot Point Registration Area T permit holders fished inside the Cinder River Section for king and coho salmon. Prior to 2013, Registration Area T permit holders were allowed to fish, except during July, during the open season in the Inner Port Heiden and Cinder River Sections. Registration Area T permit holders are also allowed to fish in Ilnik Lagoon during August and September. In 1986, Registration Area T fishermen started fishing in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections. In 1990, the board excluded Registration Area T permit holders from the Ilnik Section (except inside Ilnik Lagoon during August and September) and closed the Outer Port Heiden Section in August and September to all commercial salmon fishing by both Registration Area M and Registration Area T permit holders because of concern over potential interception of coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River). Since 2001, effort by Registration Area T permit holders in the overlap area has been minimal. In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the effort during August and September in the Cinder River Section has been from Registration Area T permit holders. In 2013, the board allowed Area T permit holders to fish during June and July in the inner portion of the Cinder River and Inner Port Heiden Sections, but no effort has occurred. Relevant information on stock-specific harvest in the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, by temporal stratum, for 2006 through 2008, can be found in report SP12-24, Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006–2008. Appendix tables C105–C147 document harvest estimates for specific stocks (e.g., Nelson, Meshik, Ugashik) during each sampled temporal stratum, 2006–2008, in these fisheries. Under WASSIP, the stock compositions of the Late Catch temporal strata for Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were assumed to be 100% Bear River stock. Appendix tables D40–D54 document harvest and harvest rate estimates for specific stocks, among all strata combined, within a given year for these fisheries. Neither the Outer Cinder River nor the Cinder River Lagoon Sections (Figure 124-1) were included under the WASSIP sampling plan (report SP11-10, Results from Sampling the 2006–2009 Commercial and Subsistence Fisheries in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program) because no fishery occurred. Harvest and harvest rate of Cinder River stock in specific area strata of each fishery, all temporal strata combined, are in SP12-24, appendix tables F40–42. Harvest and harvest rate data for the Outer Port Heiden, Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections, among all temporal strata, combined, for broad-scale reporting groups (e.g., Bristol Bay and North Alaska Peninsula) and for fine-scale reporting groups within the North Alaska Peninsula (e.g., Bear, Sandy, Ilnik) can be found in WASSIP report SP12-24, tables 45–59.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of these proposals but **SUPPORTS** the adoption of additional tools to harvest sockeye salmon surplus to escapement needs.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of these proposals is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of these proposals is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

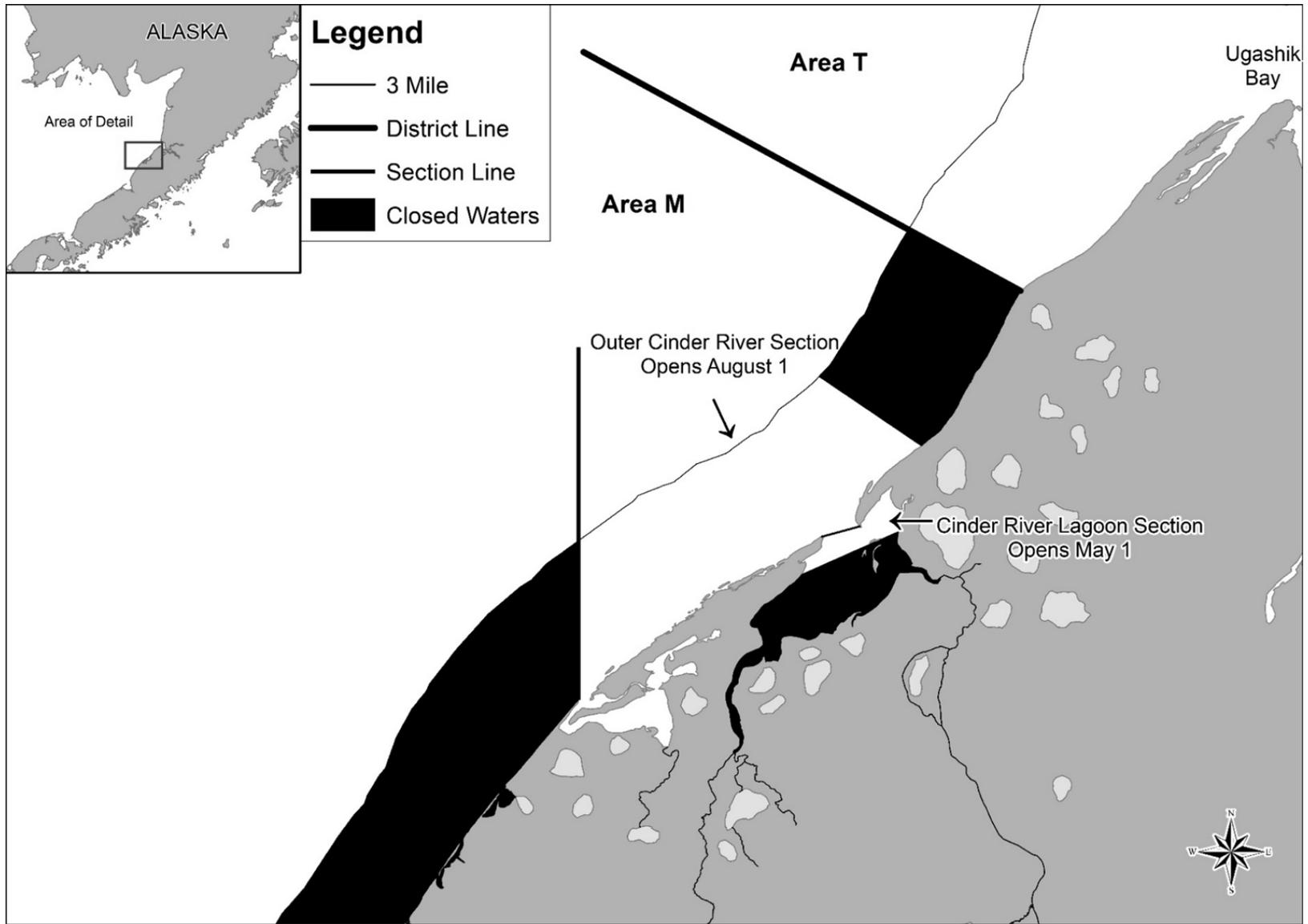


Figure 124-1.—Map of Cinder River Section.

Table 124-1.-Cinder River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2013–2022

Year	Harvest	Escapement	Goal
2013	0	95,500	
2014	0	105,000	12,000-48,000
2015	0	132,600	
2016	0	205,700	
2017	0	234,800	
2018	0	191,300	
2019	0	95,775	36,000-94,000
2020	0	124,000	
2021	0	59,400	
2022	0	120,900	
2013-2022 Average	0	136,498	

**PROPOSAL 125** – Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would change the angle of the eastward boundary line of the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation (5 AAC 09.350 (3)(B)) states that closed waters are east of a line from lat 57° 05.52'N, long 158° 34.45'W to lat 57° 08.85'N, long 158° 37.50'W (Figure 125-1).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The Outer Port Heiden Section's eastward closed waters boundary line would be altered to lat 57° 05.97'N, long 158° 34.03'W to lat 57° 08.39' N, long 158° 37.80'W (Figure 125-1)

**BACKGROUND:** In 2016, the board reopened the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing in the area from 1.5 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles, which had been closed from 2013 to 2015, and the current eastward boundary line has been effect since that board meeting. The boundary line adjustment as proposed would not change the size of fishable area within the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. This line adjustment should create a more orderly fishery along the eastward boundary line of the Outer Port Heiden Section, which should help fishermen stay in compliance with closed water regulations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

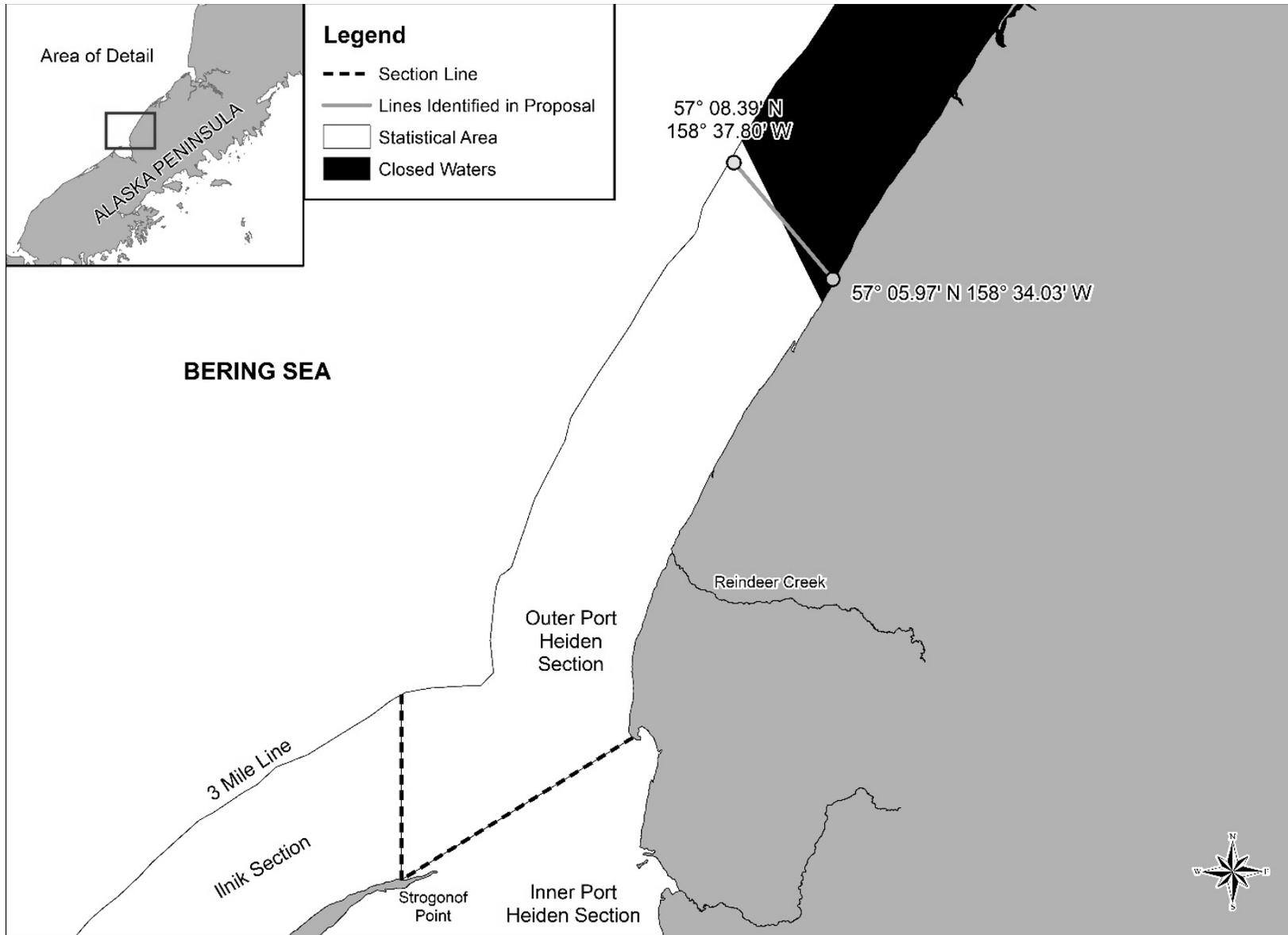


Figure 125-1.-Map of the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**PROPOSAL 126** – Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would reduce the fishing area in the northern portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section by moving the boundary line of the existing Outer Port Heiden Section to the west, approximately 1 mile North of Reindeer Creek.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** A portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section is managed based on local stocks at Meshik River. However, management actions may be taken in the Outer Port Heiden Section for the Ugashik River. The Outer Port Heiden Section is open west of a line from lat 57°05.52'N, long 158°34.45'W to lat 57°08.85'N, long 158°37.50'W.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Proposed coordinates (Figure 126-1) would move the eastern boundary line of the open portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section to approximately one mile north of Reindeer Creek. This proposal aims to move the Outer Port Heiden boundary line to the west and reduce the fishing area in the northern part of the Outer Port Heiden Section to try and direct more commercial harvest on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks in the area (Ilnik and Meshik Rivers). It is unknown if reducing the fishing area in the Outer Port Heiden Section would increase the numbers of salmon returning to Bristol Bay or increase harvest on Ilnik and Meshik River sockeye salmon. There would likely be a loss of opportunity and harvest due to less area open to the commercial salmon fishery.

**BACKGROUND:** Past stock composition studies (WASSIP) have shown that the majority of sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay: the Ugashik River sockeye salmon stock is the most prevalent Bristol Bay stock in the Outer Port Heiden fishery. Since the mid-1990s, the department has had the authority to take management actions in the Ilnik Section fishery for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks. The same actions have also been allowed in the Outer Port Heiden Section since 2007 when the Outer Port Heiden Section was reopened. From 2013 through 2015, the Outer Port Heiden Section was closed from 1.5 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles from shore over concern for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. In 2014 and 2015, a research project investigated the possible difference in the genetic composition estimates of the sockeye salmon caught in the waters in the Outer Port Heiden Section from shore to 1.5 nautical miles offshore and from 1.5 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles. The study found no significant difference between the catch in these areas. In 2016, the board reopened the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing in the area from 1.5 nautical miles to 3 nautical miles, which had been closed from 2013 to 2015. Table 126-1 provides yearly harvests for the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections during the months of June and July, as well as escapement of the Meshik and Ilnik River systems.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

Table 126-1.–Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Section sockeye salmon harvest and Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon escapement and goals, 2013–2022.

	Harvest		Escapement			
	Outer Port Heiden Section	Ilnik Section	Meshik River	Escapement goal	Ilnik River	Escapement goal
2013	254,916	81,289	65,600		51,000	
2014	420,247	791,256	95,500	25,000–100,000	59,000	
2015	868,876	461,428	149,500		26,000	
2016	632,512	2,168,297	116,310		124,000	40,000–60,000
2017	502,531	2,528,535	191,725		238,000	
2018	356,014	1,067,597	134,100		81,000	
2019	527,343	1,528,127	107,200	48,000–86,000	75,000	
2020	787,773	473,491	64,550		41,000	
2021	427,327	1,746,023	117,500		70,211	
2022	1,098,130	2,023,876	112,900		110,500	
2013-2022 Average	587,567	1,286,992	115,489		87,571	

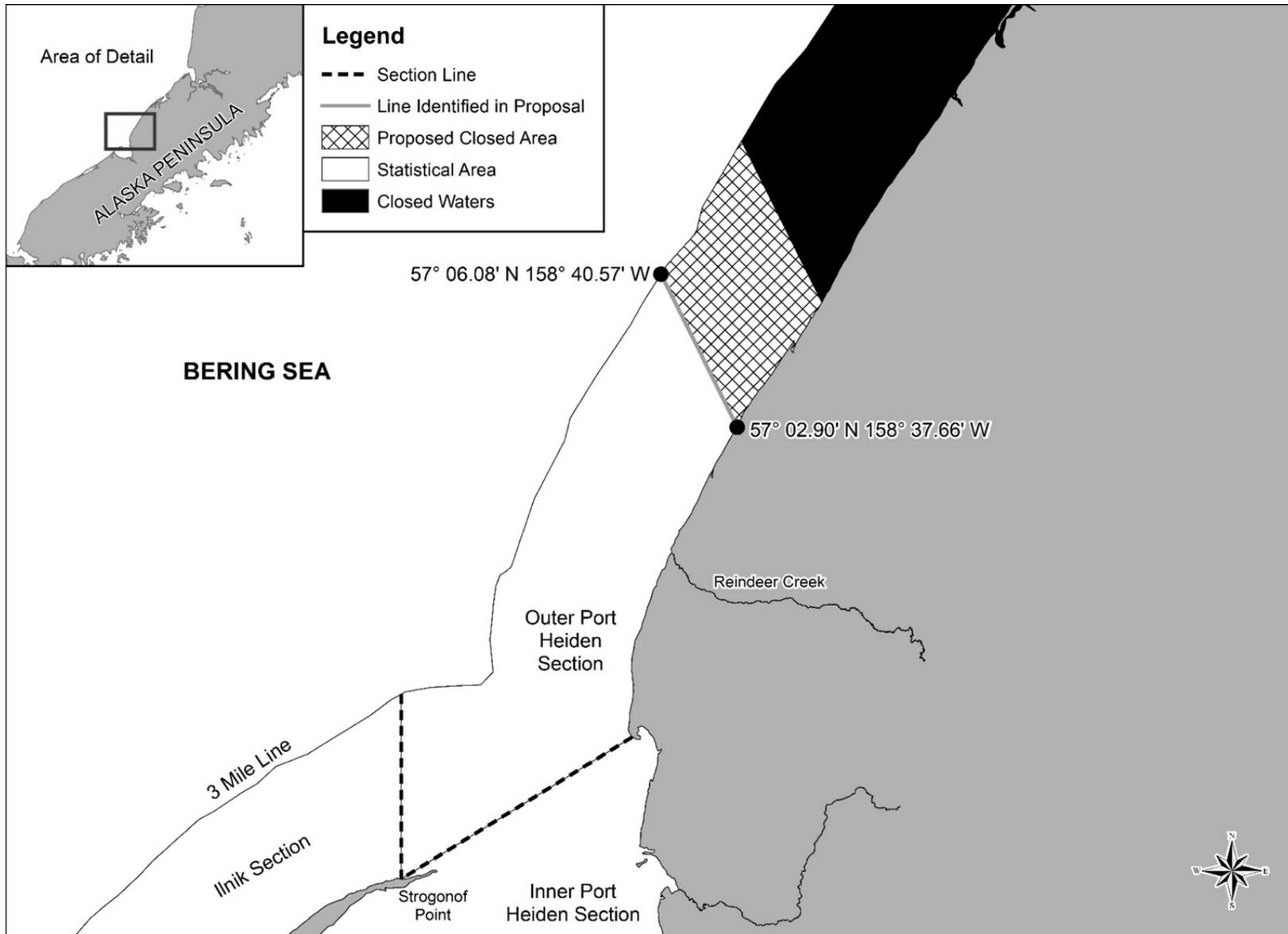


Figure 126-1.-Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections, with illustration of proposed closed waters.

**PROPOSAL 127 – Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time in the Caribou Flats Section.**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hinton.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would reopen the Caribou Flats Section and allow drift gillnet gear to fish in the section if the lower end of the Nelson River escapement goal is met between June 20 and July 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Under 5 AAC 09.310. *Fishing Seasons* (a)(9) Caribou Flats Sections has no open season, and under 5 AAC 09.350. (13) the waters of Caribou Flats are closed to commercial salmon fishing.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** When the lower end of the escapement goal at Nelson River (Sapsuk) of 97,000 sockeye salmon has been met, the Caribou Flats Section will open to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear. In some years, the escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 sockeye salmon has been met in late June. Depending on fishing time in the Port Moller area, there could be significant effort in the Caribou Flats Section if a lengthy closure is occurring in other fishing sections and the fleet has nowhere else to fish. If significant effort occurs, one expects the number of Nelson Lagoon fish entering Nelson Lagoon and Nelson (Sapsuk) River to decrease. If management actions were needed to be taken for the Nelson River such as a short closure, it would be expected that fishing in the Nelson Lagoon and Caribou Flats Sections would be curtailed.

**BACKGROUND:** The Caribou Flats Section (Figure 127-1) has been closed to commercial salmon fishing since 1989. The Nelson Lagoon Section is managed on the basis of the Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement. The Nelson River sockeye salmon escapement goal of 97,000–219,000 fish has been met annually and in 11 of the past 20 years, the upper end of the escapement goal range has been exceeded. Fishing time in Nelson Lagoon is adjusted based on escapement levels at the weir and during most years near-continuous fishing is permitted to provide harvest opportunities on surplus sockeye salmon. In recent years, the sockeye salmon run at Nelson River has been weak. Nelson River also has a BEG for king salmon of 2,400 to 4,400 fish. Over the past 20 years, that goal has been successfully met or exceeded with few exceptions. From 2011 to 2013 and in 2017 the lower bounds of the SEG were not met. In 2021 and 2022 the king salmon escapement into Nelson River was strong and nearly exceeded the upper BEG of 2,400 to 4,400 fish.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

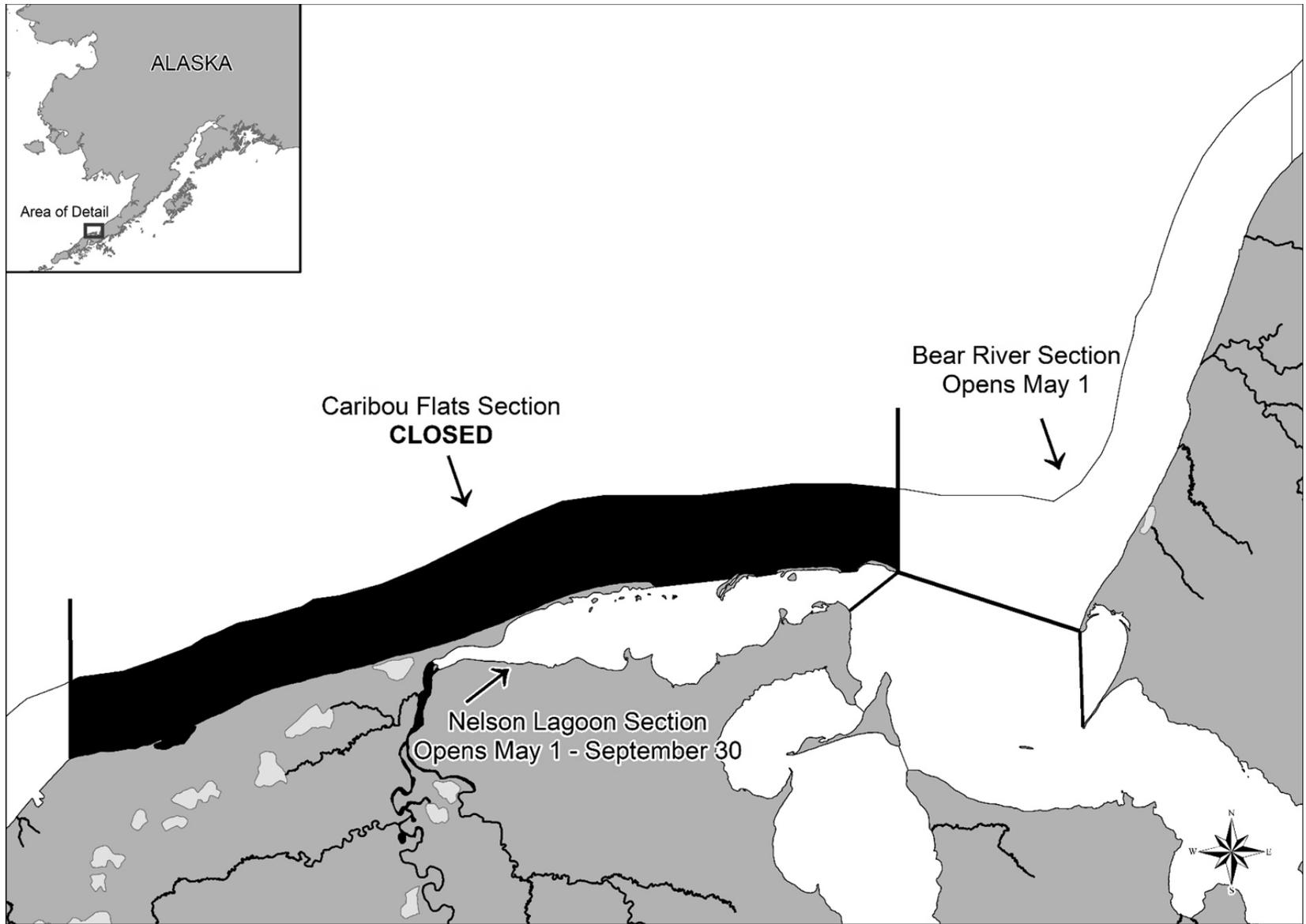


Figure 127-1.-Map of the Caribou Flats Section of the Northern District.

**PROPOSAL 128 – Amend gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions.**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Angela Johnson.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would change the Northern District's gear mesh depth limit from 70 meshes to 45 meshes.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Under 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4), in the Northern District, a drift gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section, a drift gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depth before August 16 and 38 meshes in depth from August 16 through September 30; a drift gillnet may have only one leadline, which may not exceed 60 fathoms per 50 fathoms of cork line, and no portion of the leadline may exceed 1.5 pounds per fathom.

Under 5 AAC 09.331(b)(4), in the Northern District, the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except that in the Nelson Lagoon Section, a set gillnet may not exceed 29 meshes in depth.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This would reduce drift gillnet mesh depth in the Northern District and increase set gillnet depth in some locations. A reduction in harvest efficiency would reduce commercial catch by an unknown amount and potentially lead to surplus escapement, longer commercial openings, and lost harvest opportunities. The increase in mesh depth would make fishing in some locations, such as Nelson Lagoon, difficult because of shallow water.

**BACKGROUND:** The Northern District stretches from Moffet Point to Cape Menshikof and encompasses many different fisheries, including king and coho salmon fisheries in some locations, chum and pink salmon fisheries in Herendeen and Port Moller bays, and sockeye salmon fisheries in Black Hills, Nelson Lagoon, Bear River, Three Hills, Ilnik, Outer Port Heiden, Inner Port Heiden, and Cinder River Sections. Drift and set gillnet gears are allowed in many areas, and gillnet requirements vary throughout the area. Per 5 AAC 09.331(a)(4) and (b)(4), gillnet mesh size depth varies throughout the Northern District.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery since set and gillnet fishermen would have to reduce or purchase gillnets to conform to the 45-mesh depth. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

**PROPOSAL 129 – Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow monofilament web in the Northern District commercial salmon set gillnet fishery.**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Connor Murphy.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would allow monofilament web in the Northern District commercial salmon set gillnet fishery.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current general provisions for gillnet specifications within the majority of Alaska (5 AAC 39.250), including Registration Area M, require that salmon gillnet web contains either 30 filaments of equal diameter or contains at least 6 filaments with each filament having a minimum of 0.20-millimeter diameter.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Monofilament web would be allowed in the Northern District commercial set gillnet fishery. The use of monofilament gillnet web may influence catch rates and change CPUE information but is not likely to affect the department’s ability to manage the commercial fishery.

**BACKGROUND:** Monofilament gillnets are utilized to harvest salmon in Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and California. British Columbia prohibits the use of monofilament gillnets. Monofilament web is also used in Alaska herring gillnet fisheries, the Cook Inlet salmon gillnet fishery, and the Kodiak set gillnet fishery. In the Cook Inlet salmon gillnet fishery, from 2005 through 2007, monofilament was allowed for up to 1/3 of a set or drift gillnet and required permit holders to register. Since 2008, all set and drift gillnet gear in the Cook Inlet commercial gillnet fishery may be constructed with monofilament web, and there is no longer a registration requirement.

Several topics were discussed at the 2005 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting but increases in algae and other vegetative debris sticking to gillnets were not addressed. Topics of discussion at the meeting were based on the *Gillnet Gear Evaluation Study in Southeast Alaska*, 1987, by Alexandersdottir et al. (1988). They included the following information: catch efficiency of pink salmon increased with the reduction of filament strands, there was an increased harvest of chum and coho salmon taken in clear water but not turbid (glacial) water, and no significant catch efficiencies were found for sockeye salmon. Waters open to gillnet gear in the Upper Cook Inlet area tend to be far more turbid than the waters of the North Alaska Peninsula open to gillnet gear.

At the 2020 Kodiak board meeting, single filament mesh web was approved for use by the set gillnet fleet. Kodiak set gillnet fishermen have been experiencing an increase in the number of algae bloom events, causing heavy “slime” to attach to their gear, rendering it unfishable for long periods. Monofilament web is less susceptible to catching and holding algae during these events.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional cost to the department.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 4: SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON (18 PROPOSALS)**

### ***South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (3 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 130** – Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow more commercial salmon fishing time in Orzinski Bay if the escapement objectives into Orzinski Lake are met.

#### **5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Allow commercial salmon fishing to be open continuously in Orzinski Bay if the escapement objectives into Orzinski Lake are met.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(e)(1), in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at lat 55° 41.92'N, long 160° 03.20'W to Waterfall Point at lat 55° 43.18'N, long 160° 01.13'W (Figure 130-1), commercial fishing may not be open for more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period; (2) if the Orzinski Bay escapement reaches or exceeds 25,000 sockeye salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Northwest Stepovak Section, including all of Orzinski Bay with fishing periods as follows: (A) set gillnet gear will be allowed to operate continuously through 12:00 midnight July 25; (B) purse seine and hand purse seine gear will be allowed to operate as specified in (1) of this subsection. From July 26 through October 31, the department must close all sections in the Southeastern District Mainland for at least one 36-hour period in a seven-day period, including the Orzinski Bay Section.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** No change in fishing time in Orzinski Bay from July 1 through July 25. Beginning July 1, current regulations exclude Orzinski Bay from being required to commercial fish no more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period in the Northwest Stepovak Section; therefore, this proposal as written emulates current regulations. After July 25, an increase of fishing time could occur in Orzinski Bay if escapement goals for Orzinski Lake were being met.

**BACKGROUND:** Escapement into Orzinski Lake has been monitored annually since 1990. Based on aerial surveys and weir counts, interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been developed by time periods. The escapement goal range for Orzinski Lake is 14,000–28,000 sockeye salmon. Weir operation typically begins in early June and sockeye salmon usually begin entering the lake by mid-June. Weir operation typical ends around the first week of August, which is when the final escapement objective should be met. If the interim escapement objectives into Orzinski Lake are not being achieved, then the Northwest Stepovak Section may be closed until escapement falls with the escapement range, or until management of the area shifts to local management of pink and chum salmon stocks in early to mid-August.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Some clarification would be beneficial to state whether the intent of the board is to allow Orzinski Bay to remain open continuously after July 25 if the department determines that Orzinski

Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives are being met. Current regulations limit commercial openings in Orzinski Bay to 132 hours after July 25. Having the ability to manage Orzinski Bay continuously after July 25, especially in years when Orzinski Lake has strong and late escapement, would be a valuable management tool.

In addition, further regulatory clarification is needed based on the new escapement goal of 14,000 to 28,000 sockeye salmon, subsection (2) would need to be modified to reflect the new escapement goal range, especially in times when the remainder of the Southeastern District Mainland is restricted to fishing due to poor returns to Chignik River.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

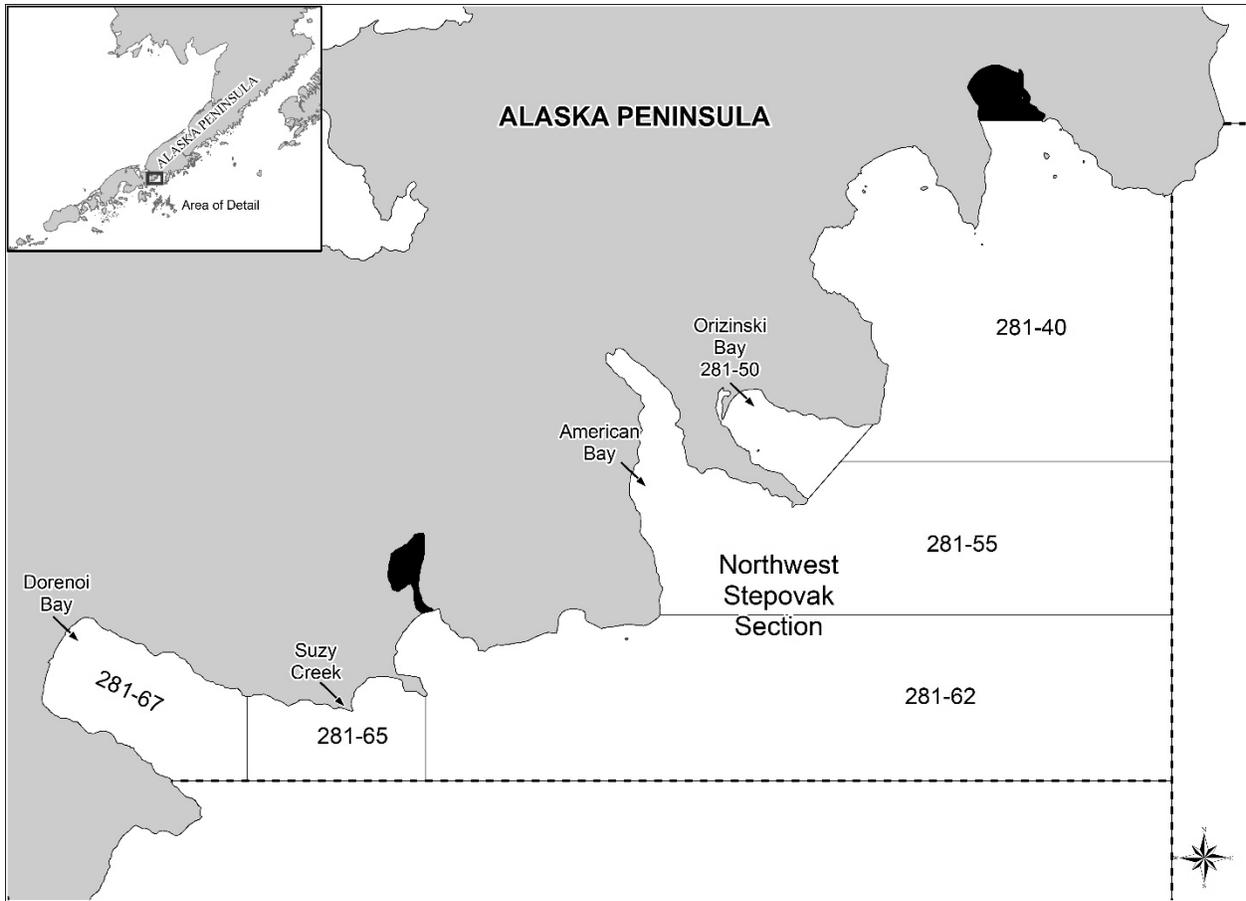


Figure 130-1.—Map of the Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District and Orzinski Bay (Statistical Area 281-50).

**PROPOSAL 131** – Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11, purse seine gear concurrent to open commercial fishing periods for salmon in the Chignik Management Area and would Remove the required sockeye salmon harvest thresholds for CMA as described in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. and Amy M Foster.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Allow commercial salmon fishing by set gillnet gear from June 1 through July 25, and after July 11 through July 25 for seine gear in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of the Southeastern District concurrently with commercial salmon fishing periods in Chignik Management Area (CMA). Remove the required sockeye salmon harvest thresholds for CMA as described in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, 5 AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In accordance with 5 AAC 09.360(b) and (c), commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM shall be curtailed to allow a harvest in the CMA of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section (Figure 131-1), are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** More commercial fishing time for set gillnet gear in the SEDM. If adopted, set gillnet gear, and after July 11 purse seine gear, could commercial salmon fish in SEDM concurrently with commercial salmon fishing periods within the CMA. This proposal would remove the harvest thresholds of 300,000 and 600,000 sockeye salmon and allow fisheries to occur in SEDM concurrently when harvest is permitted in the CMA. Removing the harvest thresholds would eliminate regulations 5AAC 09.360(b), (c), and (d). This would allow commercial set gillnet fishing in SEDM from June 1 through July 25, and from July 11 through July 25 for purse seine gear, to commence as soon as commercial salmon fishing begins in the CMA. Adoption of this proposal would likely allow for earlier fishing opportunities in SEDM and likely provide additional fishing time for set gillnet and purse seine gears.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in

2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

**PROPOSAL 132 – Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** During the current Board of Fisheries cycle, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game made changes to the Chignik River sockeye salmon management by shifting from being managed by 2 escapement goals to management by a single escapement goal. This proposal seeks to address the language in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* that references the 2-escapement-goal regime for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

Regulations for 5AAC 09.360 would read as follows:

**5AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery conducted in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections. Except as specified in 5 AAC 09.330(f)(3), before July 11, only set gillnet gear may be used in these sections. For the purpose of the management plan in this section, local runs include only those salmon in the waters

- (1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f);
- (2) in the Stepovak Flats Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f).

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the [FIRST (BLACK LAKE) AND SECOND (CHIGNIK LAKE) RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, **Stepovak Flats**, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long. until the department projects that a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July [8]**10**, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if **the** escapement **goal is**[GOALS ARE] being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement **goal**[GOALS] for [THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish but [FIRST RUN] fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at

least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July [8]10 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July [8]10, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement **goal**[GOALS] for [THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the **run is**[RUNS ARE] as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(e) Beginning July 1,

(1) in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55 ° 41.92' N. lat., 160 ° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55 ° 43.18' N. lat., 160 ° 01.13' W. long., commercial fishing may not be open for more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period;

(2) if the Orzinski Bay escapement **is expected to reach or**[REACHES OR] **exceed** [EXCEEDS] **the upper bound of the sockeye salmon escapement goal range**[25,000 SOCKEYE SALMON], the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Northwest Stepovak Section, including all of Orzinski Bay with fishing periods as follows:

(A) set gillnet gear will be allowed to operate continuously through 12:00 midnight July 25;

(B) purse seine and hand purse seine gear will be allowed to operate as specified in (1) of this subsection.

**(3) if the department determines that the sockeye salmon escapement goal objectives are being met or exceeded then the waters of Orzinski Bay may be open to commercial salmon fishing continuously to set gillnet gear only through July 10 and both set gillnet gear and purse seine gear from July 11 through July 25.**

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1, all sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

(g) The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 7.6 percent of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area at any time before July 25.

(h) The allocation method described in (a) - (g) of this section is in effect through July 25. The commissioner may not open the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in

the East Steповak, Steповak Flats, Southwest Steповak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Steповak Section, before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland area for local stocks.

(i) [DURING THE PERIOD FROM APPROXIMATELY JUNE 26 THROUGH JULY 8, THE STRENGTH OF THE SECOND RUN OF THE CHIGNIK RIVER SYSTEM SOCKEYE SALMON CANNOT BE EVALUATED. IN ORDER TO PREVENT OVERHARVEST OF THE SECOND RUN, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISALLOW OR SEVERELY RESTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IN THE EAST STEPOVAK, STEPOVAK FLATS, SOUTHWEST STEPOVAK, BALBOA BAY, AND BEAVER BAY SECTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD, AND FROM JUNE 26 THROUGH JUNE 30 IN THE NORTHWEST STEPOVAK SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner shall open all commercial fishing periods by emergency order. Before commencement of the first commercial salmon fishing period of the season, the department shall give at least 24 hours' notice. For subsequent fishing periods, the department shall give at least 12 hours' notice. If an existing fishing period is extended, the department shall give notice of the extension as soon as possible before the end of the existing fishing period.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, from July 1 through July 10, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to set gillnet gear, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the waters of Orzinski Bay west of 160\_ 04.25' W. long. to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

(l) From July 26 through October 31,

(1) the department shall manage the fishery based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks;

(2) there shall be at least one closed 36-hour period within a seven-day period, **excluding Orzinski Bay when the department is managing for local sockeye salmon.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 09.360(a)–(d) and (i) of the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* contains provisions that reference two escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon that must be modified to comport with the new escapement goal for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** No change in fishing time or area. Adoption would align regulation with the new escapement goal for Chignik River sockeye salmon. This will assist managers in the South Alaska Peninsula by clarifying language in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* that is tied to having two escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** Beginning in October 2020, a department interdivisional team reviewed existing Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* escapement goals for Registration Area L (Chignik) and Registration Area M (Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands). The team found revising the two separate Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals to a single BEG of 450,000–800,000 fish was appropriate. Management of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of the

Southeastern District within the South Alaska Peninsula (Registration Area M) is tied to the escapement and harvest that occurs within Registration Area L. Therefore, it is necessary to modify the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal to clarify the management of SEDM.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** amending the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

## *South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (10 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 133** – Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine gear.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Timothy Murphy.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amends fishing time in the Shumagin Islands for purse seine gear to 72-hour openings interspersed with 72-hour closures. Removes the Volcano Bay Section and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections from the June Management Plan. Removes the regulations pertaining to the “Dolgoi Islands area” harvest limit of 191,000 sockeye salmon from the June management plan.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The South Unimak June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District (Figure 133-1). The Shumagin Islands June fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 133-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June are separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 133-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED** Less fishing time and area depending on gear type. The area open to fishing would be reduced for set gillnet and drift gillnet gear (Figures 133-3 and 133-4). Area open to commercial salmon fishing by seine gear would remain unchanged. The number of hours open to fishing for seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would be reduced from 352f hours to 216 hours (Figure 133-5). Commercial salmon fishing hours allowed for drift gillnet and set gillnet gear would remain unchanged.

Removing the “Dolgoi Island area” regulations would have little impact on harvest since very little harvest effort occurs there.

Reducing fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District for purse seine gear would likely result in seine effort shifting into the South Unimak fishery where commercial fishing would remain open.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. During the 2004 management strategy set by the board, there were concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified

at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

In 2019, purse seine gear was removed from the “Dolgoi Island area.” Since then, harvest of sockeye salmon has been between approximately 2,500 and 31,000 sockeye salmon. For a complete regulatory history of the June fishery, reference Appendix B of the *2021 South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas*.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

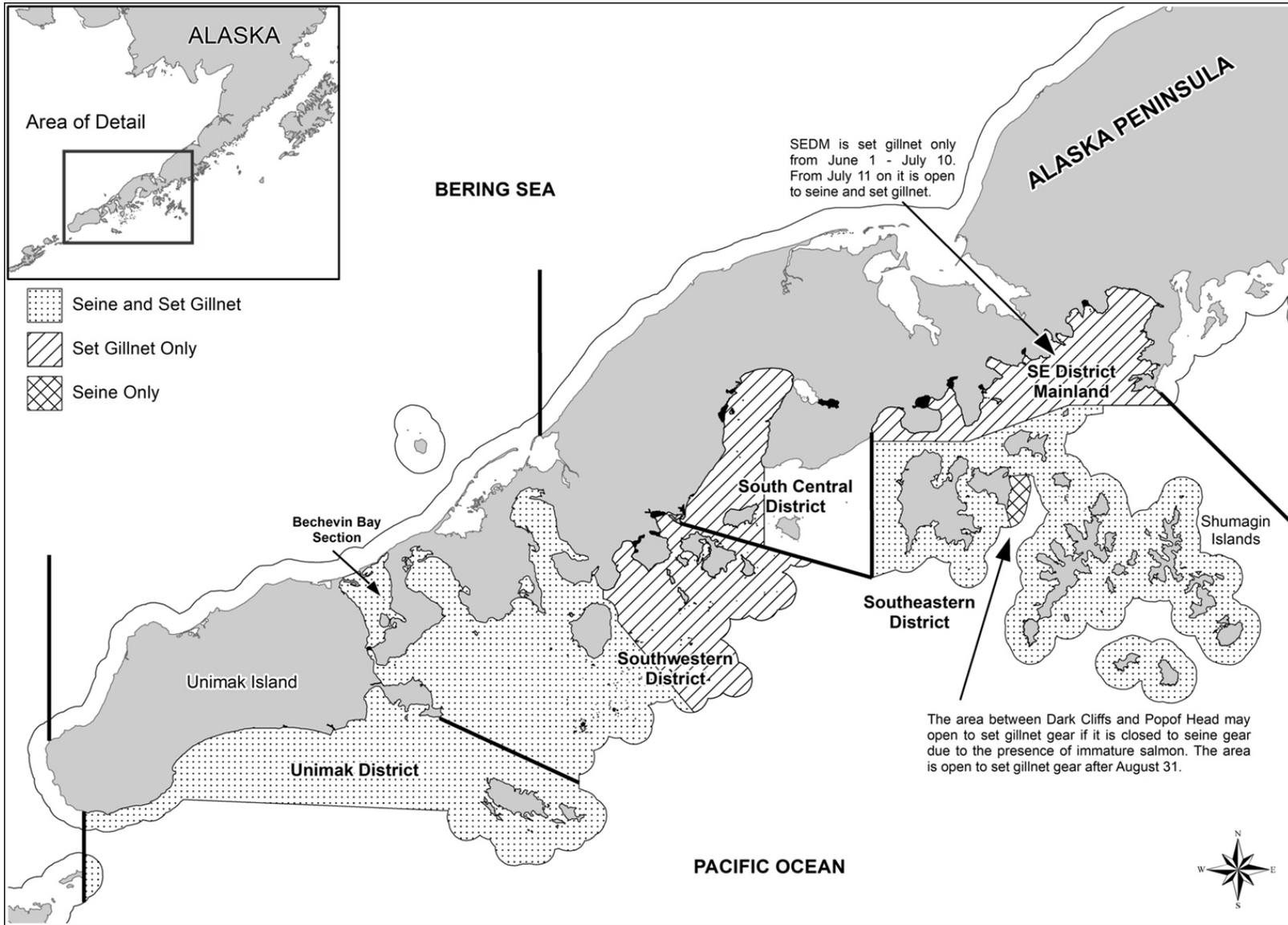


Figure 133-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

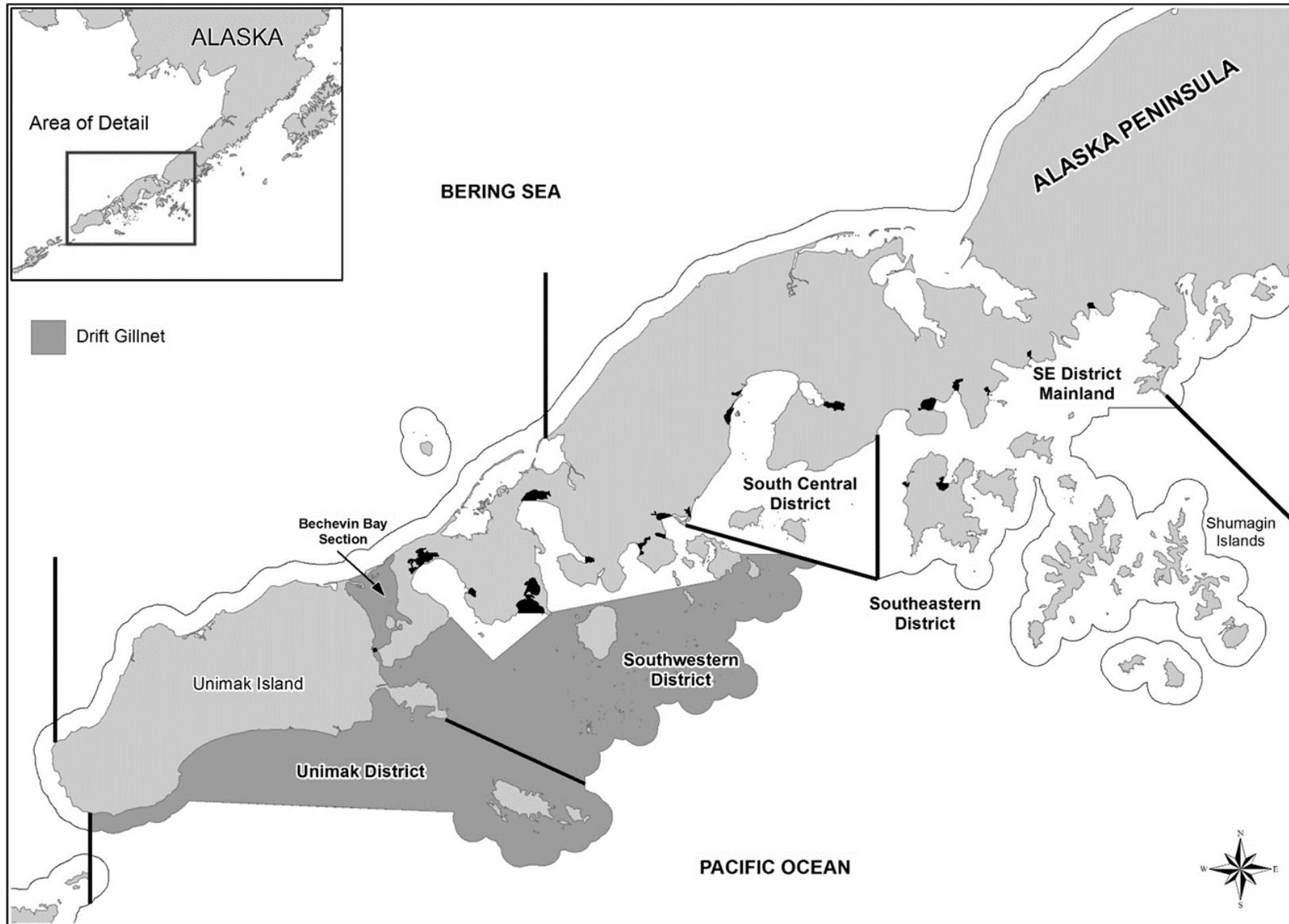


Figure 133-2.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for drift gillnet gear.

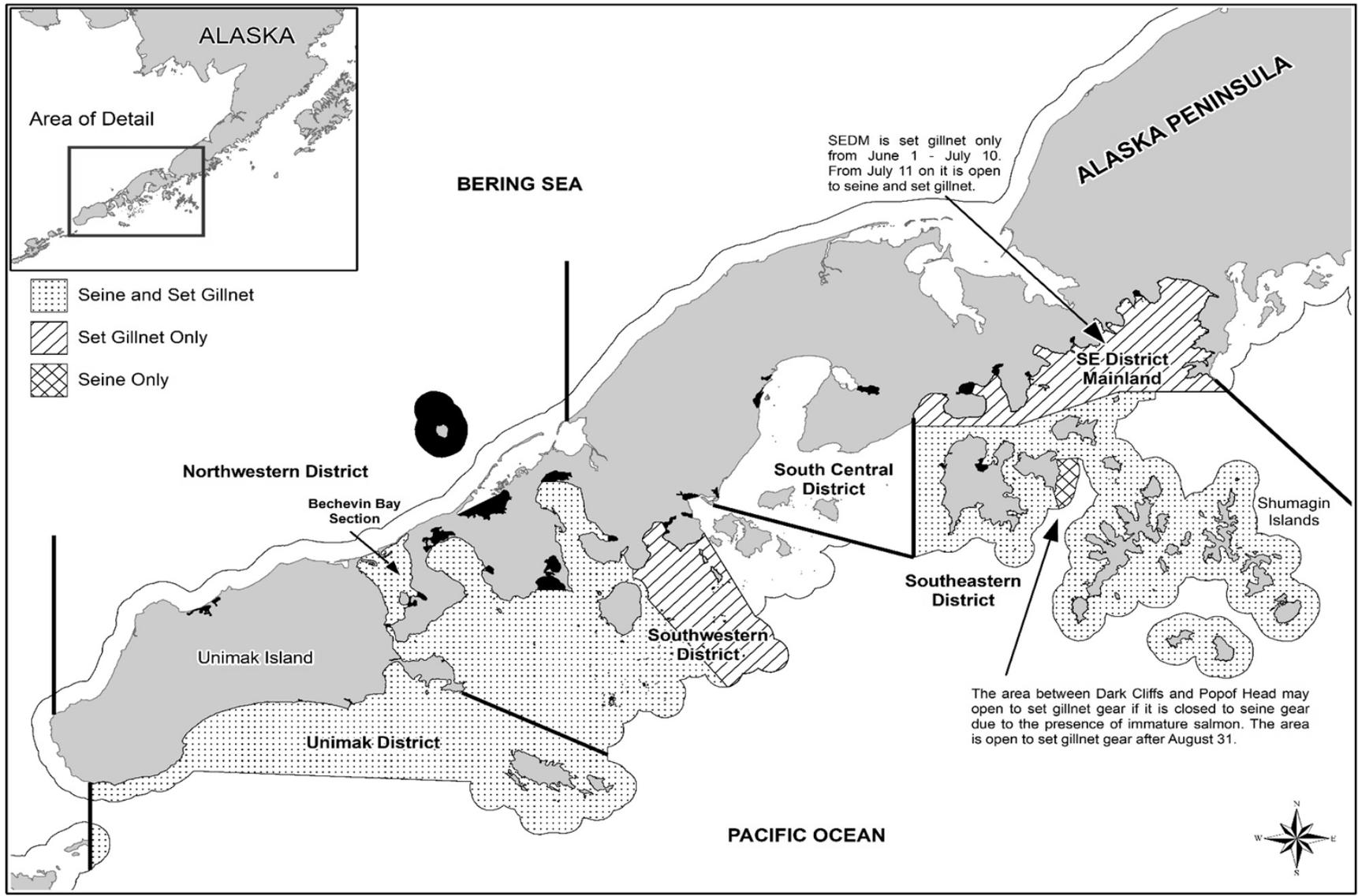


Figure 133-3.- Map of the proposed June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas allowed for purse seine and set gillnet gear.

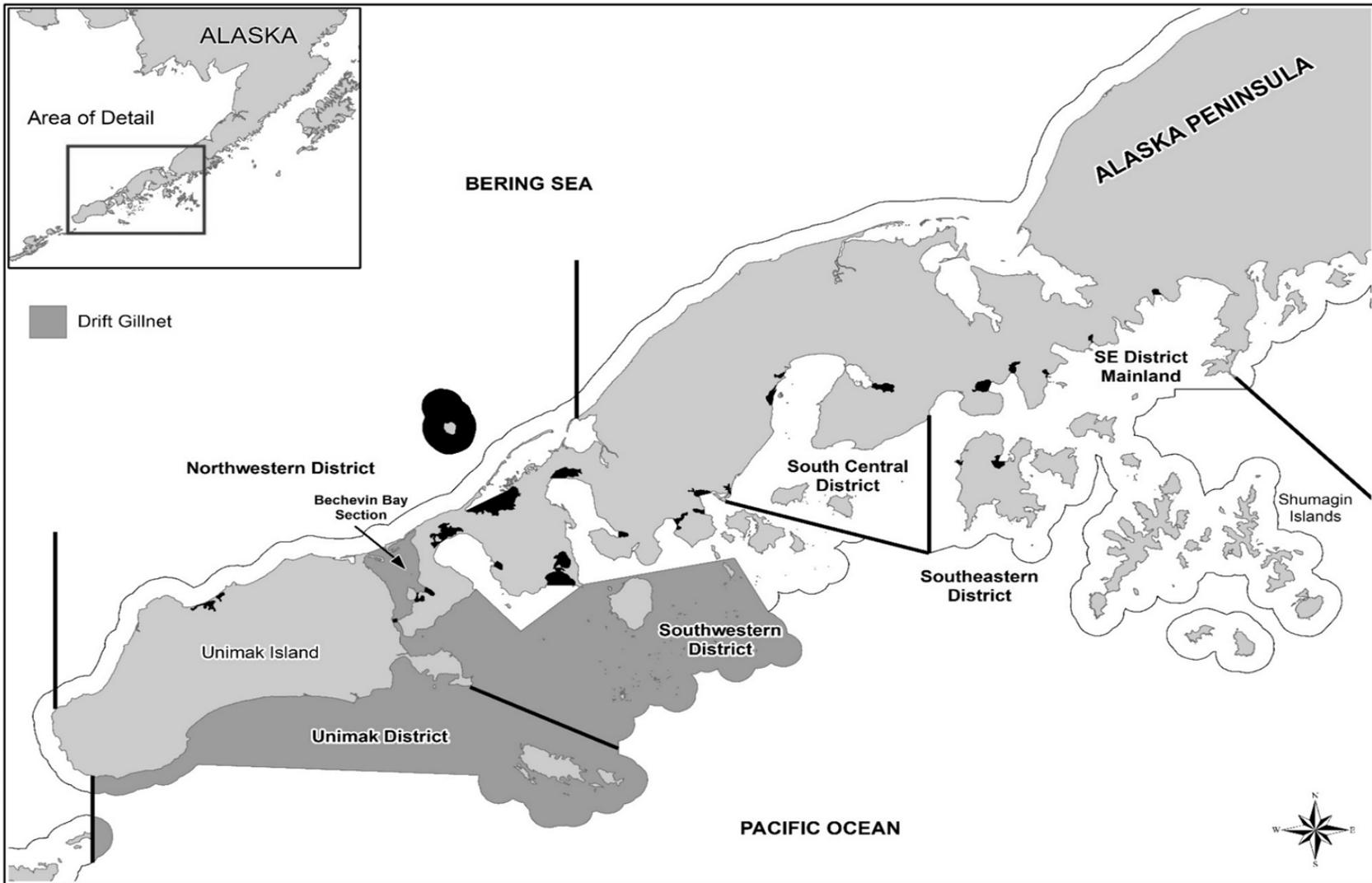


Figure 133-4.- Map of the proposed June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas allowed for drift gillnet gear.

## June 2023 Shumagin Seine Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Proposed fishing times for seine gear in Shumagin Islands Section</b>						
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Open 72 hours</b>			<b>Open 72 hours</b>		<b>Open 72 hours</b>	
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				<b>Open 88 hours</b>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				<b>Open 72 hours</b>		
<b>Open 88 hours</b>			<b>Open 88 hours</b>			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>					
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>					

Figure 133-5.—Current and proposed fishing times for purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District in the South Alaska Peninsula in June fishery.

**PROPOSAL 134** – Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to reduce fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Repeal 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the previous management plan adopted by the board approximately 20 years ago but edited to incorporate king salmon and coho salmon in addition to chum and sockeye salmon. Specific regulatory language was not provided in the proposal.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 134-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 134-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Reduce fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula. The intent of the proposal is to reduce or close fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula in order to conserve Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) salmon stocks. The effects are unknown until a clear understanding of what regulatory management plan would be in place if this proposal were to pass.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. During the 2004 management strategy set by the board, there were concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries,

management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. The following discussion will focus on chum salmon since they are of primary interest to AYK Region stakeholders. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of

each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and Southcentral Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and Southcentral Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department, but this is difficult to know with certainty because no regulatory language is provided in the proposal.

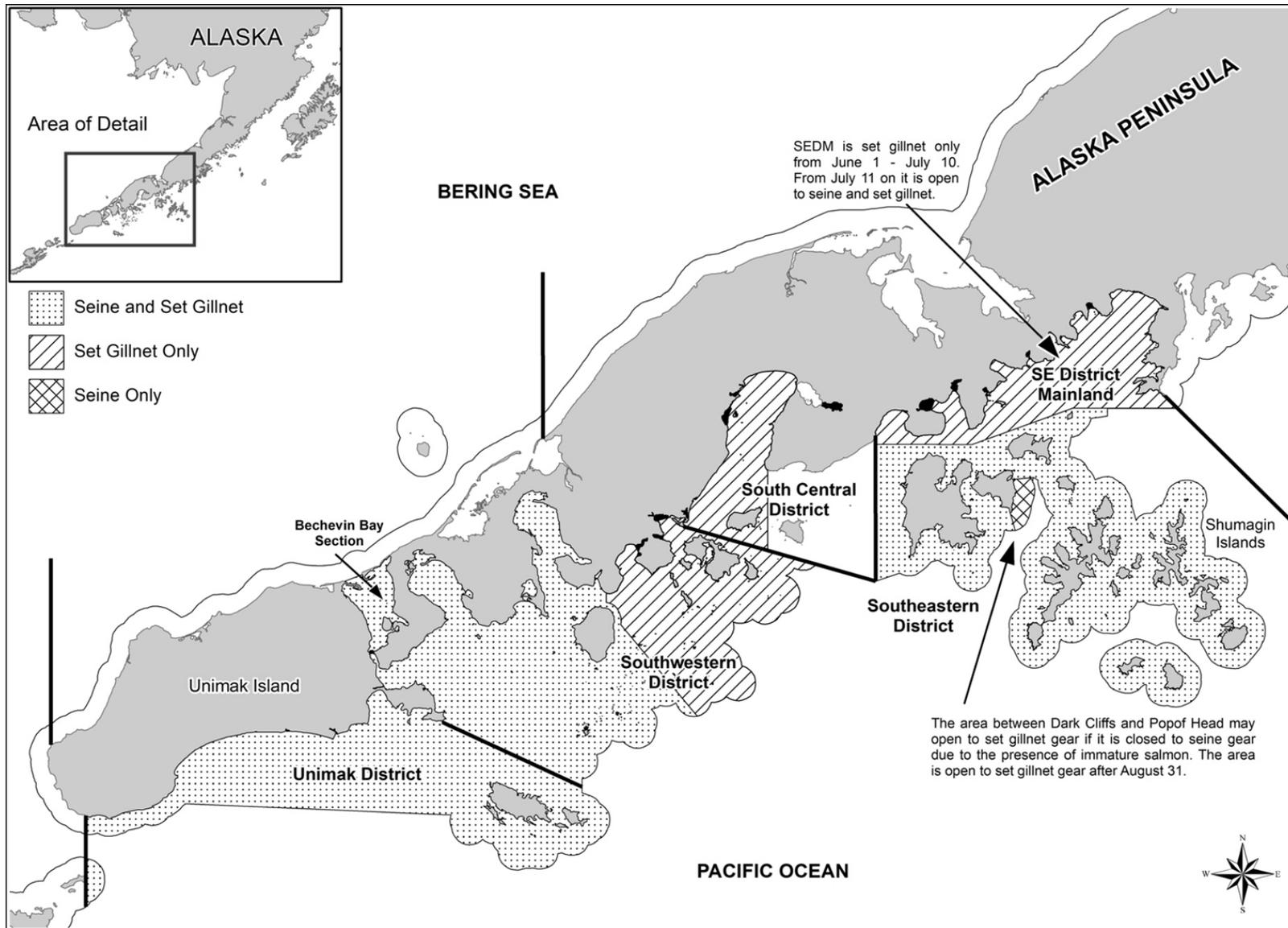


Figure 134-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

June 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	<b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b>		10 p.m.	6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 p.m.		6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.		

Figure 134-2.—Current fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

**PROPOSAL 135** – Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben and Raechel Allen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Establish a sockeye salmon harvest percentage of 82% in the South Unimak portion of the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the remaining 18% in the Shumagin Islands Section. If harvest in the Shumagin Island Section of the Southeastern District reaches 18% of the total sockeye salmon harvest in the South Alaska Peninsula June fishery, the Shumagin Islands Section would close until fish ticket reports sockeye salmon harvest of less than 18% of the total sockeye salmon harvest.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands fishery includes the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 135-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 135-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Possibly reduce fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. If sockeye salmon harvest in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District was greater than 18% of the total sockeye salmon harvest throughout the June fishery, the Shumagin Islands Section would close. Commercial salmon fishing would remain open in the South Unimak portion of the June fishery, shifting effort west and increasing gear conflicts in the existing South Unimak portion of the fishery.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management established by the board in 2001 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along

the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in the Westward Region, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. Tissue samples were taken from sockeye salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula. The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to seven regional reporting groups (stocks), including Chignik and, when adequate sample sizes were feasible, were further categorized into subregional reporting groups for Black Lake and Chignik Lake.

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, what stock proportions are present in the sockeye salmon samples taken at this time from this area? Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. The 2006 through 2008 genetic mixed stock analysis for Chignik sockeye salmon from the Chignik reporting group varied widely within and between years in South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 1.1% – 28.9%), “Dolgoi Island area” (range: 18.4% – 74.6%), Ikatan area (range: 1.0% – 30.2%) and Unimak District (range: 1.3% – 51.3%). Harvest rates of Chignik sockeye salmon in the June fishery ranged from 1.4% to 3.3% in the Shumagin Islands, 1.1% to 7.4% in the “Dolgoi Island area”, 0.3 to 0.4% in the Ikatan area, and 0.7 to 2.2% in the Unimak area. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2006, 2007, and 2008 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

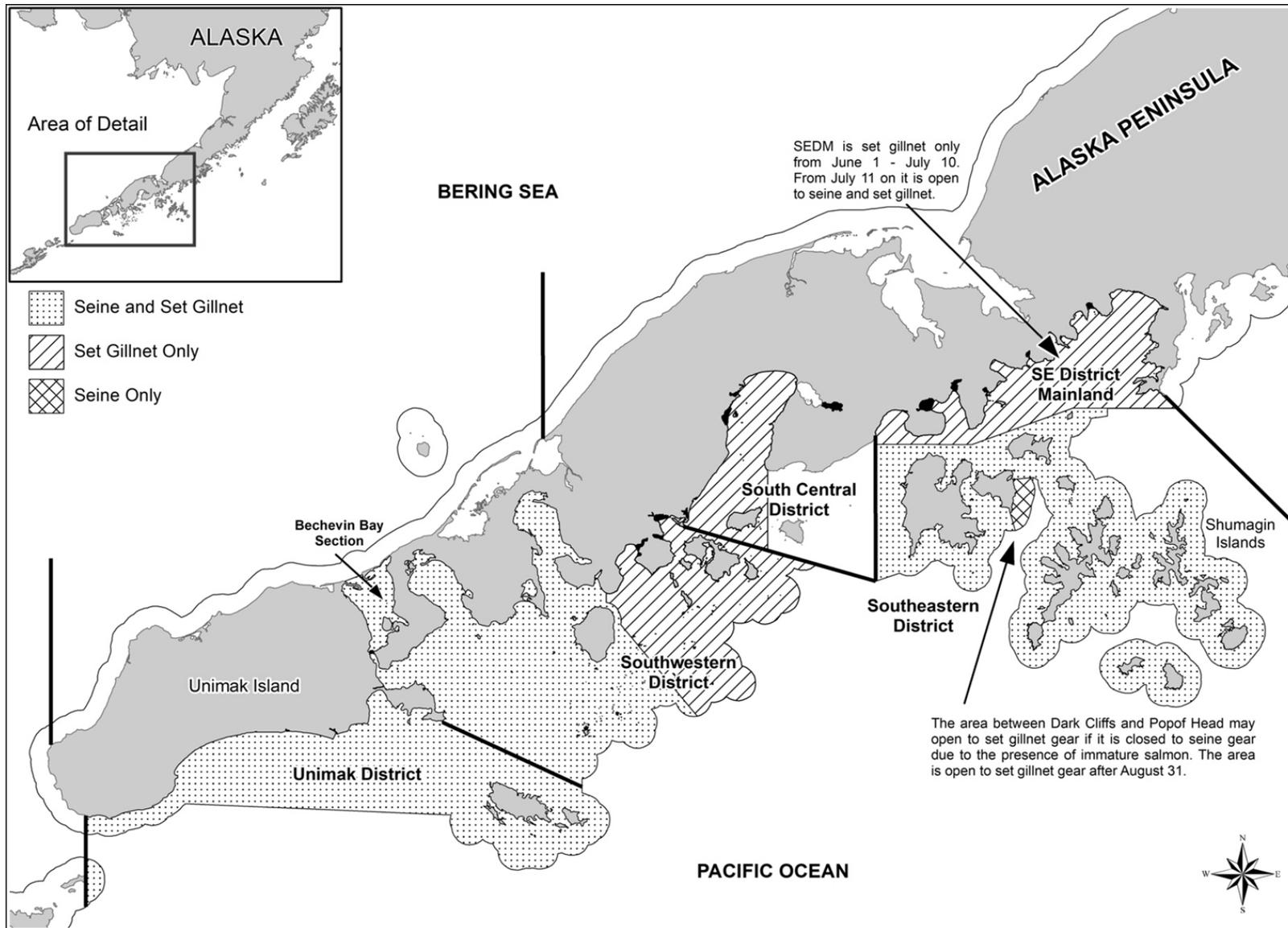


Figure 135-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

## June 2023 All Gear Types Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	<b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b>		10 p.m.	6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 p.m.		6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.		

Figure 135-2.—Current fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

**PROPOSAL 136** – Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to implement a chum salmon harvest cap to reduce commercial fishing time.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to incorporate a harvest cap of 280,000 chum salmon of all origin during the June fisheries for all gear types and close the commercial fishery for the remainder of June once that cap is met.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 136-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 136-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fishery would close when 280,000 chum salmon are harvested. In years when 280,000 chum salmon have been harvested in the past this would have resulted in a range of 17,539 to 888,604 fewer overall salmon harvested in the June fishery (Table 136-1). It is unknown how fleet behavior and harvest patterns would change in response to a chum salmon harvest cap. In some years a cap may not reduce potential chum salmon harvest depending on salmon abundance and migration patterns. It is difficult to predict if a chum salmon harvest cap would result in greater returns of chum salmon to the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. During the 2004 management strategy set by the board, there were concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-

Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. The following discussion will focus on chum salmon since they are of primary interest to AYK Region stakeholders. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest

numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within the *2021 South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amli Islands Management Areas*.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish; for Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish; and for Kuskokwim River drainage chum salmon at 41,200–116,400 fish. Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that these ANSs have not been met.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

Table 136–1. Number of chum salmon harvested in the South Unimak and Shumagin Island June fishery and number of chum salmon that would have not been harvested if a 280,000 chum salmon cap were in place.

Year	Chum harvest	Chum cap	Fewer chum harvested
2004	482,310	280,000	202,310
2005	427,830	280,000	147,830
2006	299,827	280,000	19,827
2007	297,539	280,000	17,539
2008	410,932	280,000	130,932
2009	696,775	280,000	416,775
2010	271,700	280,000	–
2011	423,335	280,000	143,335
2012	395,060	280,000	115,060
2013	399,058	280,000	119,058
2014	390,139	280,000	110,139
2015	178,715	280,000	–
2016	270,614	280,000	–
2017	640,891	280,000	360,891
2018	537,466	280,000	257,466
2019	549,072	280,000	269,072
2020	490,128	280,000	210,128
2021	1,168,601	280,000	888,601
2022	544,097	280,000	264,097

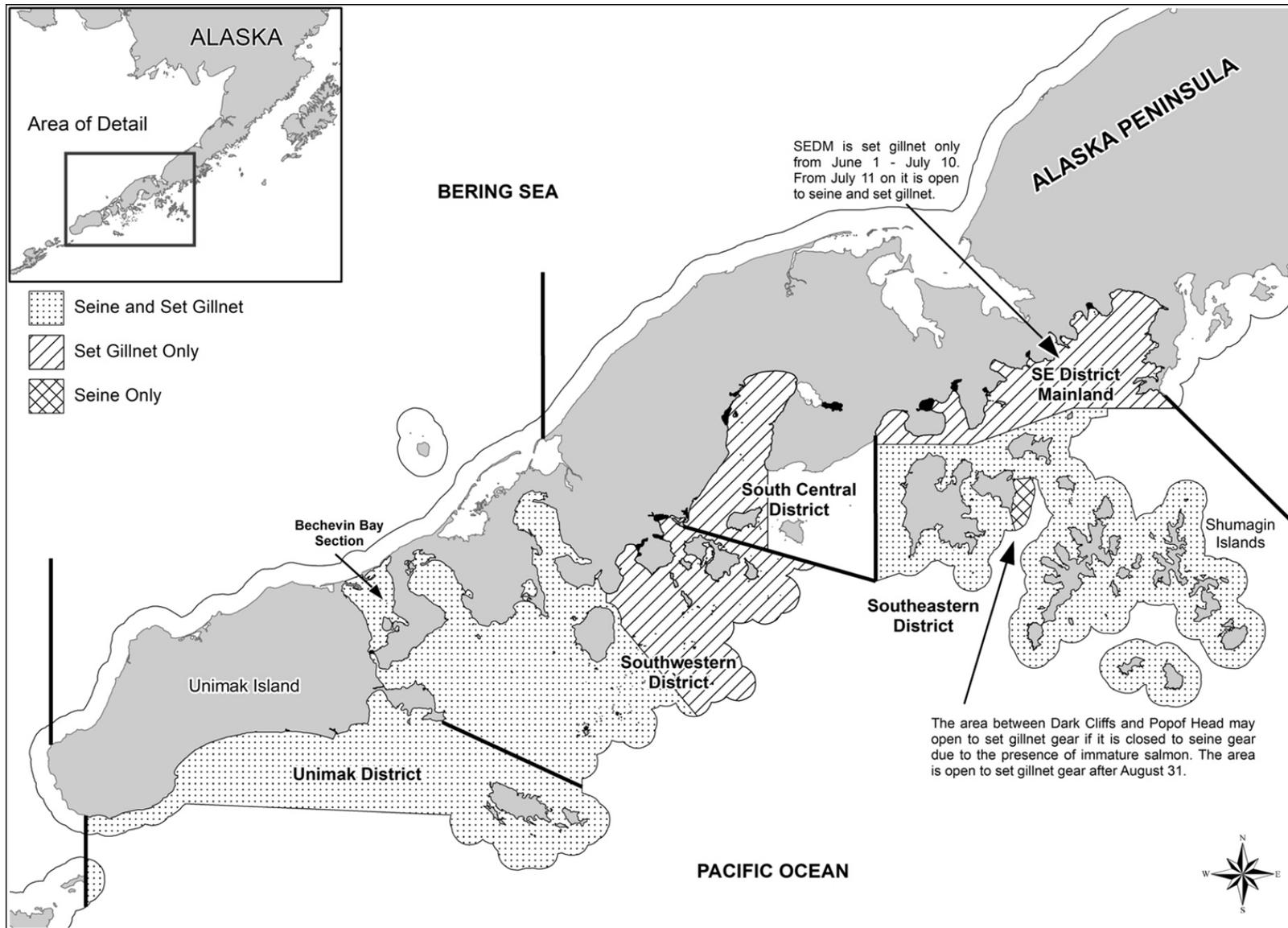


Figure 136-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

June 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	<b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b>		10 p.m.	6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 p.m.		6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.		

Figure 136-2.—Current fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

**PROPOSAL 137 – Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reduce fishing time in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to 100 hours total.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 137-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 137-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Less fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula June fishery. Commercial salmon fishing time would be reduced from 416 hours for set gillnet gear and 352 hours for drift gillnet and purse seine gear to 100 hours for all gear types. Harvest of all species of salmon by all gear types would be reduced in June. It is difficult to assess the amount of harvest reduction because fleet behavior would change with fewer hours to fish.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management strategy established by the board in 2004, included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. The following discussion will focus on chum salmon since they are of primary interest to AYK Region stakeholders. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska

Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and Southcentral Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and Southcentral Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish; for Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish; and for Kuskokwim River drainage chum salmon at 41,200–116,400 fish. Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that these ANSs have not been met.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

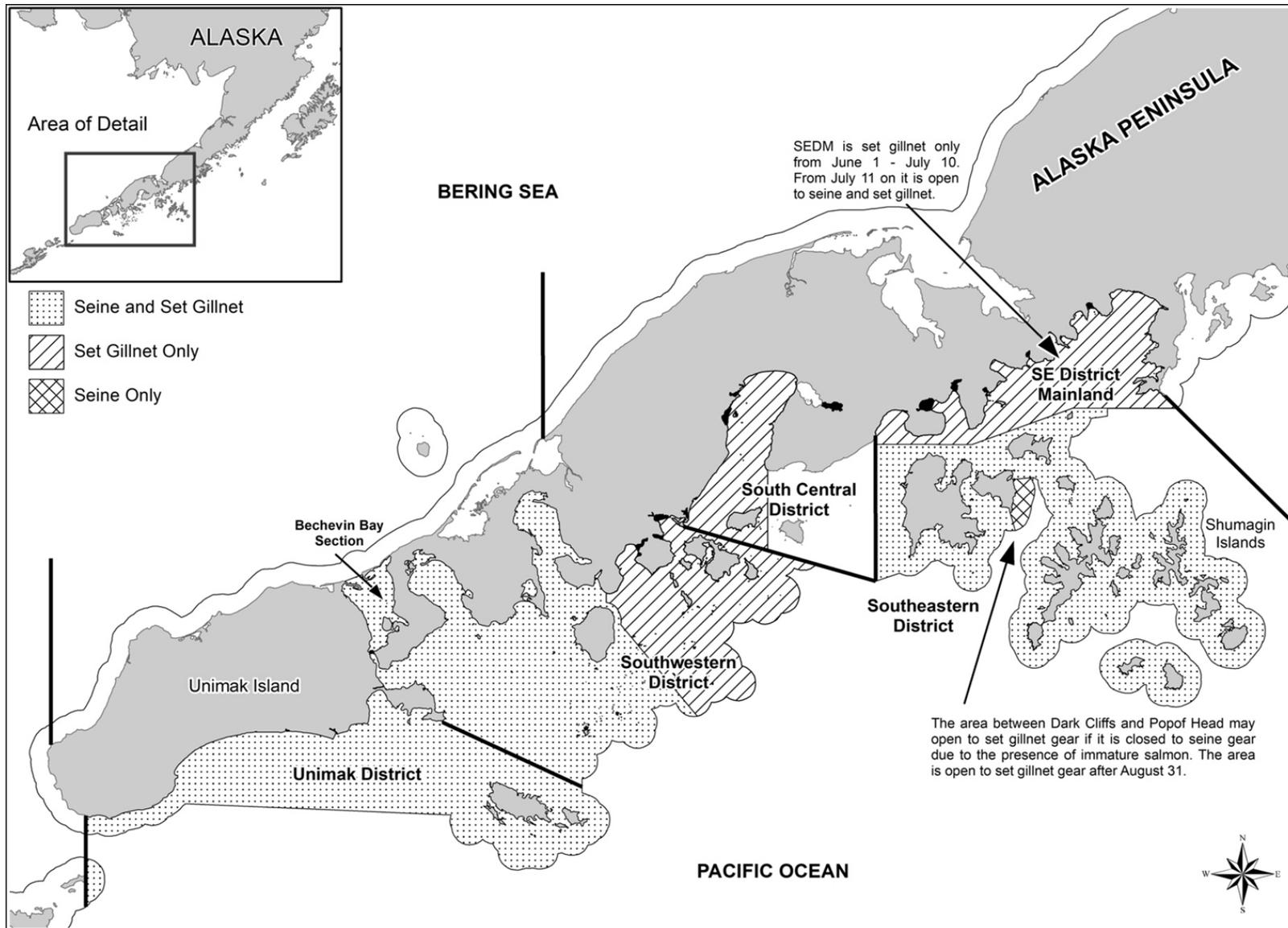


Figure 137-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

June 2023 Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Proposed fishing times for seine and drift</b>						
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m. <b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b> 10 p.m.				6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.			6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.	
<b>Open 88 hours</b> 10 p.m.				6 a.m. <b>Open 88 hours</b>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.			6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.		
		6 a.m. <b>Open 88 hours</b> 10 p.m.				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m. <b>16 hours</b> 10 p.m.		4 hours				
6 a.m. <b>Open 88 hours</b> 10 p.m.						

Figure 137-2.- Current and proposed fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

**PROPOSAL 138 – Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to require the department to place observers onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels.**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Create an onboard observer program for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fishery.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department requires accurate and timely information on salmon run strength to manage the salmon resources of the State of Alaska. A key component is information on commercial harvests from fish tickets and daily catch reporting from processors/buyers. It is the legal responsibility of fishermen, tenders, transporters, and processors/buyers to complete fish tickets (5 AAC 39.130, AS 16.05.690, and AS 16.05.671) and provide timely harvest data to the department as requested (AS 16.05.690). Fish tickets are legal documents and need to be filled out by the processor/tender and signed by the permit holder. Only the CFEC permit holder may sign the fish ticket. There are currently no requirements for observers in this salmon fishery or in any other salmon fisheries in Alaska.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This proposal would establish an on-board observer program to assess the accuracy of chum salmon harvest data from these fisheries. Observers would be required to be onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels to collect fishery and biological data. This would not impact the way the fishery is managed.

**BACKGROUND:** Observers are deployed by the department in Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab and statewide weathervane scallop fisheries to collect biological and fishery data at sea. This is done for two reasons – first, most scallops and some crab are processed at sea, making shorebased biological data sampling not possible; second, data on the nonretained portion of the catch is a critical component of stock assessment models and requirement of the Federal Fishery Management Plan for these fisheries. In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fishery, like nearly all other salmon fisheries in Alaska, salmon are delivered to shorebased facilities for processing and inseason assessment of run strength is based on reported catch and salmon escapement.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The department does not have concerns with the accuracy or timeliness of harvest information collected through current reporting requirements and can sample catch as needed. An observer program would be duplicative of current catch accounting programs, provide little information needed to manage the salmon fishery, and would be costly to the department and fishing industry. If the Board were to adopt this proposal it is unlikely the department could mobilize a salmon observer program and identify a funding source for the program by the 2023 fishing season and would need considerable direction and regulatory development from the board to create standards for a salmon fishery observer program because existing onboard observer program regulations are focused specifically on the crab and scallop fisheries.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is expected to result in significant additional direct cost to the department in addition to significant cost to a private person to participate in this fishery.

Approval of this proposal will result in additional direct cost for the department to implement an observer program. The estimated cost of an onboard observer program for the salmon fishery would depend on coverage levels determined by the board or department and the type of observers deployed in the fishery. The department currently administers an observer program for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab and statewide scallop fishery. Observers in those fisheries are either contracted third-party or department employees and costs are covered either by vessels required to carry an observer or through test fishery revenues generated by the department. Additional costs would be incurred to hire new department employees to administer an observer program.

**PROPOSAL 139** – Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to restrict commercial salmon fishing time.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Tribal Resources Stewardship Program, Tanana Chiefs Conference.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Repeal 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the 2001-2003 management plan adopted by the board. Additionally, incorporate king salmon and coho salmon in addition to chum and sockeye salmon in the current June salmon management plan.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 139-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 139-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Reduced fishing area in the South Unimak portion of the June fishery for all gear types would reduce harvest of all salmon species in June. Reduced fishing time for all gear types in the South Alaska Peninsula would additionally reduce harvest of all species of salmon in June. Change the start date of the fishery from June 6 to June 10. Restrict fishing hours to 16 hours per day until June 24, no more than 48 hours in a 7 day period, and no more than 2 consecutive days of 16 hours of fishing for seine and drift gillnet gear before June 24. Sockeye-to-chum salmon ratio restrictions for set gillnet gear before June 24 and for all gear types after June 24.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye to chum salmon ratios, time limits and the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

A chum salmon cap was first established in 1986 at 400,000 chum salmon. Except for 1987, when there was no chum salmon cap, the cap was set at a specific number and was changed several times over the years. In 1998, a “floating” chum salmon cap was established that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the harvest projection of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon.

During their January 2001 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) made the following regulation changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery:

1. Eliminated the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels.
2. Eliminated the chum salmon *O. keta* guideline harvest levels.

3. Limited fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group.
4. Limited total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven-day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven-day period.
5. From June 10 through June 24, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour fishing periods as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios in each fishery is equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average in each fishery. If the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in one of the fisheries, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
6. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur at the same time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries.
7. After June 24, in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is two to one or less on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is two to one or greater, a six-hour fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fishery shall close for all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is two to one or less for two consecutive fishing periods.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management strategy established by the board in 2004 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings by changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula

locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. The following discussion will focus on chum salmon since they are of primary interest to AYK Region stakeholders. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly

informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et a. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within the *2021 South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas*.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish; for Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish; and for Kuskokwim River drainage chum salmon at 41,200–116,400 fish. Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that these ANSs have not been met.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

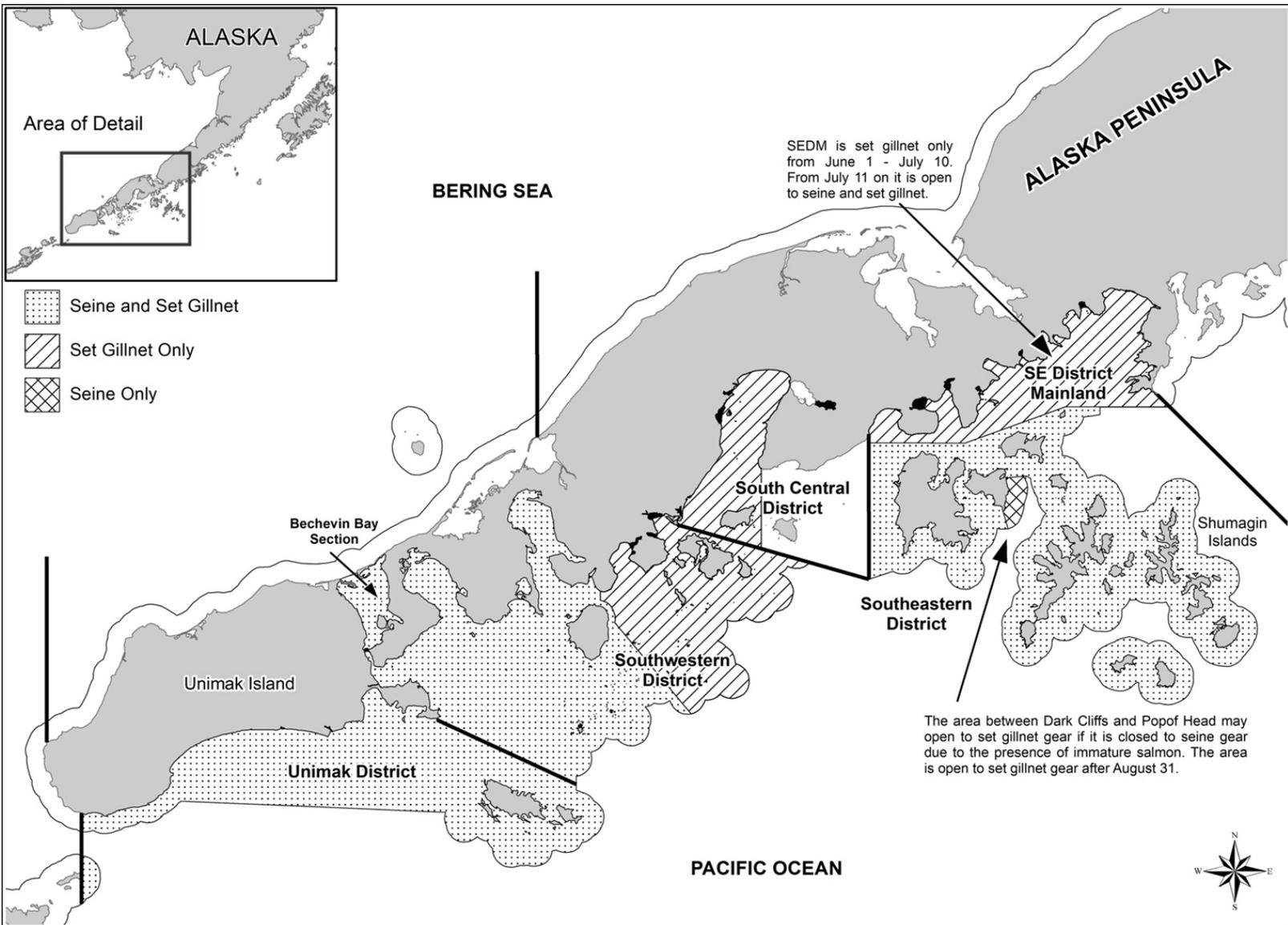


Figure 139-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

**PROPOSAL 140 – Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee Fisheries Sub-Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Repeal 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the 2001-2003 management plan adopted by the board. Additionally, incorporate king salmon in addition to chum and sockeye salmon in the current June salmon management plan.

Modify the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, by readopting the management plan in place from 2001–2003 with modifications, as follows:

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] chinook salmon, sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery. These stocks of salmon are bound for Bristol Bay and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as other areas across the North Pacific Ocean. These salmon stocks have historically been intercepted in significant numbers along the Alaska Peninsula. To ensure that none of these salmon stocks are overharvested, it is necessary to restrain the interception of these stocks as provided in the management plan in this section, and consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220)

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Ikatan Bay Section in the Southwestern District, and the Bechevin Bay Section in the Northwestern District, plus the following waters of the Southwestern District located outside of the Ikatan Bay Section and not described as closed waters in 5 AAC 09.350;

(1) waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.); and

(2) waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162 ° 33.50' W. long.) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N. lat., 162° 18.10' W. long.) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55 ° 03.15' N. lat., 161 ° 44.35' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island and from the northernmost tip of Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N. lat., 161° 53.72' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island to ArchPoint Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161 ° 54.30' W. long.).

(c) The Shumagin Islands fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section.

(d) Beginning June 10 through June 30, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and may not be open for more than

(A) three days in any seven-day period;

(B) 16 hours per day;

(C) 48 hours in any seven-day period;

(D) two consecutive 16-hour fishing periods in any seven-day period;

[(2) THROUGH JUNE 24, COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS IN THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS AND SOUTH UNIMAK FISHERIES WILL OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME;

(3) AFTER JUNE 24, THE PROVISIONS OF (F) APPLY.]

(e) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) from June 10 through [JUNE 24] June 30,

(A) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

[(B) THE FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE PERIOD IF, DURING THE PRECEDING PERIOD, THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS NOT EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE RECENT 10 YEAR AVERAGE;

(2) AFTER JUNE 24, THE SCHEDULE OF OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS OF FISHING PERIODS SHALL COINCIDE WITH THE SCHEDULE FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) AFTER JUNE 24, IN EITHER THE SOUTH UNIMAK OR SHUMAGIN ISLANDS FISHERIES,

(1) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS ON ANY DAY, THE NEXT DAILY FISHING PERIOD FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR SHALL BE OF SIX-HOUR DURATION IN THAT FISHERY;

(2) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS GREATER THAN TWO TO ONE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY EXTEND THE FISHING PERIOD BY EMERGENCY ORDER, TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 HOURS AS DESCRIBED IN (D)(L) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS, THE FISHERY SHALL CLOSE FOR ALL GEAR TYPES.]

(g) All salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 140-1 and Figure

140-2). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 140-3). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Reduced fishing time for all gear types in the South Alaska Peninsula. Change the start date of the fishery from June 6 to June 10. Restrict fishing hours to 16 hours per day through June 30, no more than 48 hours in a 7-day period, and no more than 2 consecutive days of 16 hours of fishing for seine and drift gillnet gear through June 30 (Figure 140-3). Reduced fishing area in the South Unimak portion of the June fishery for all gear types (Figure 140-4). Reduction in fishing time and area would reduce harvest of all salmon species in June.

**BACKGROUND:** From 1975–2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye to chum salmon ratios, time limits and the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975–2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

A chum salmon cap was first established in 1986 at 400,000 chum salmon. Except for 1987, when there was no chum salmon cap, the cap was set at a specific number and was changed several times over the years. In 1998, a “floating” chum salmon cap was established that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the harvest projection of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon.

During the January 2001 board meeting, the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. The regulatory history of the June fishery is presented within the *2021 South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas*.

In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. During the 2004 management strategy set by the board, there were concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings by changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-

Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. The following discussion will focus on chum salmon since they are of primary interest to AYK Region stakeholders. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest

numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish and for Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish. Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that these ANSs have not been met.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

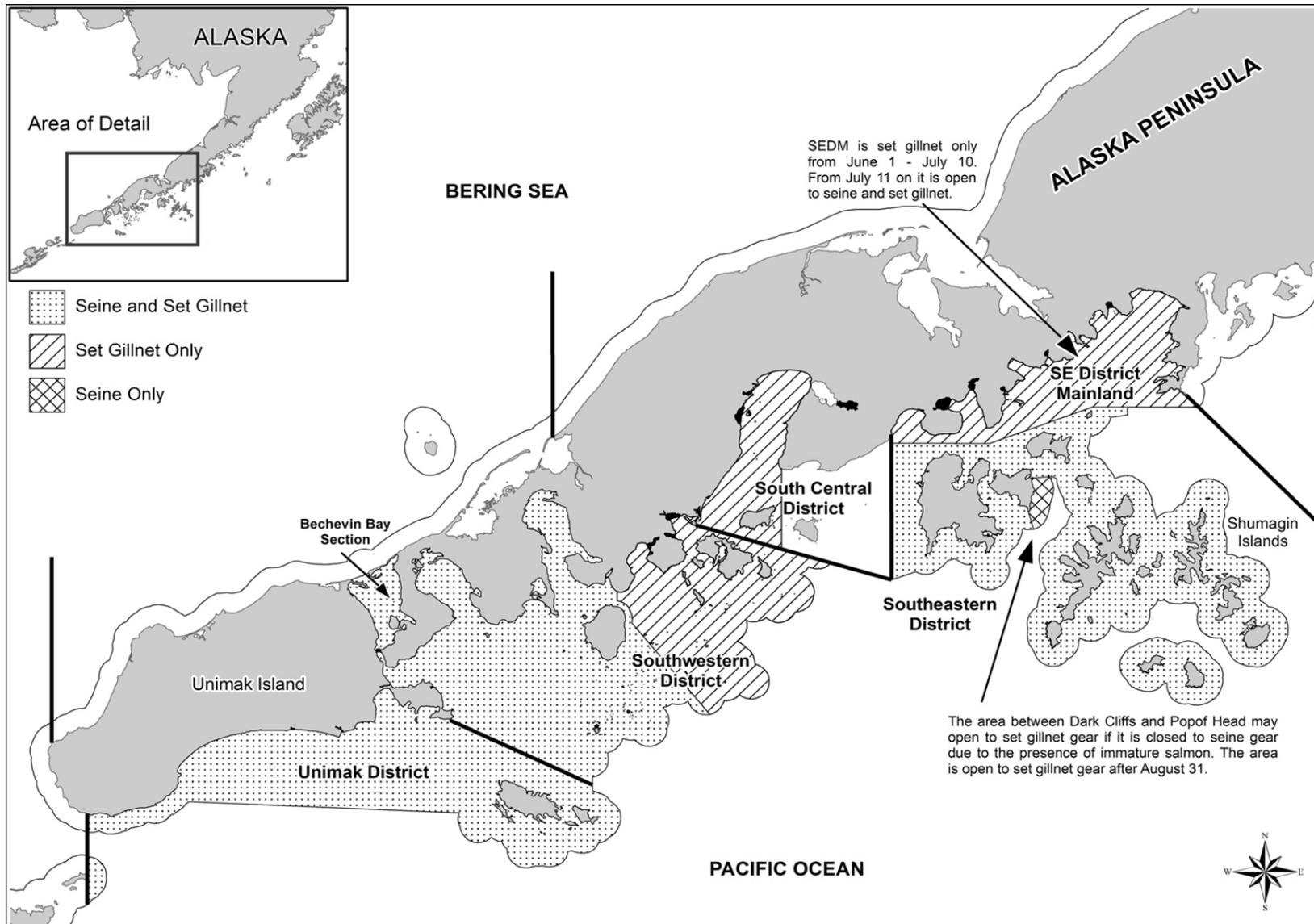


Figure 140-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

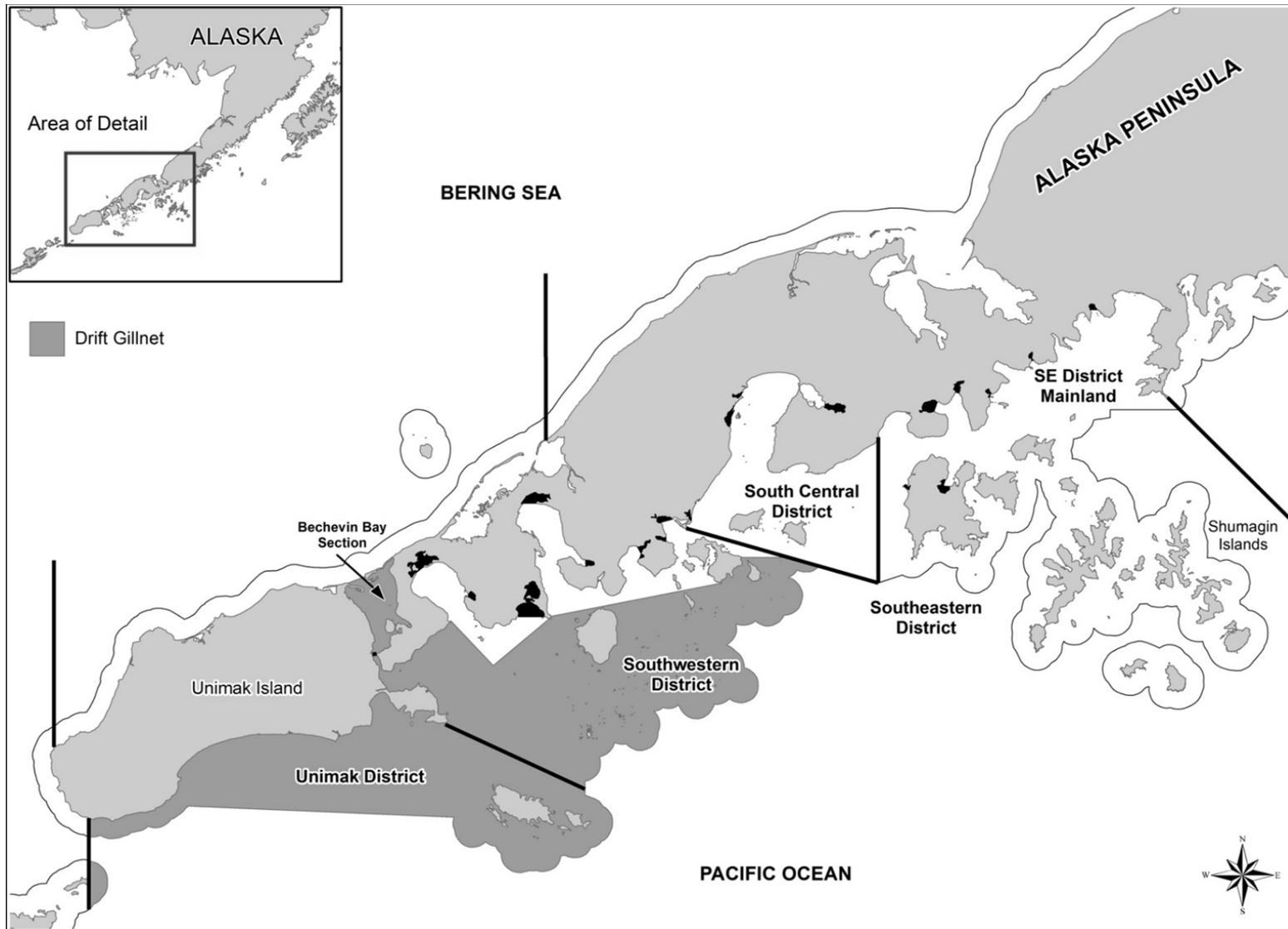


Figure 140-2.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas currently allowed for drift gillnet gear.

June 2023 Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Proposed fishing times for seine and drift</b>						
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours
		6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	<b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b>			6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours			6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	<b>Open 88 hours</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours			6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours
		6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours		4 hours				
6 a.m. - 10 p.m. 16 hours	<b>Open 88 hours</b>					

Figure 140-3.—Current and proposed fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

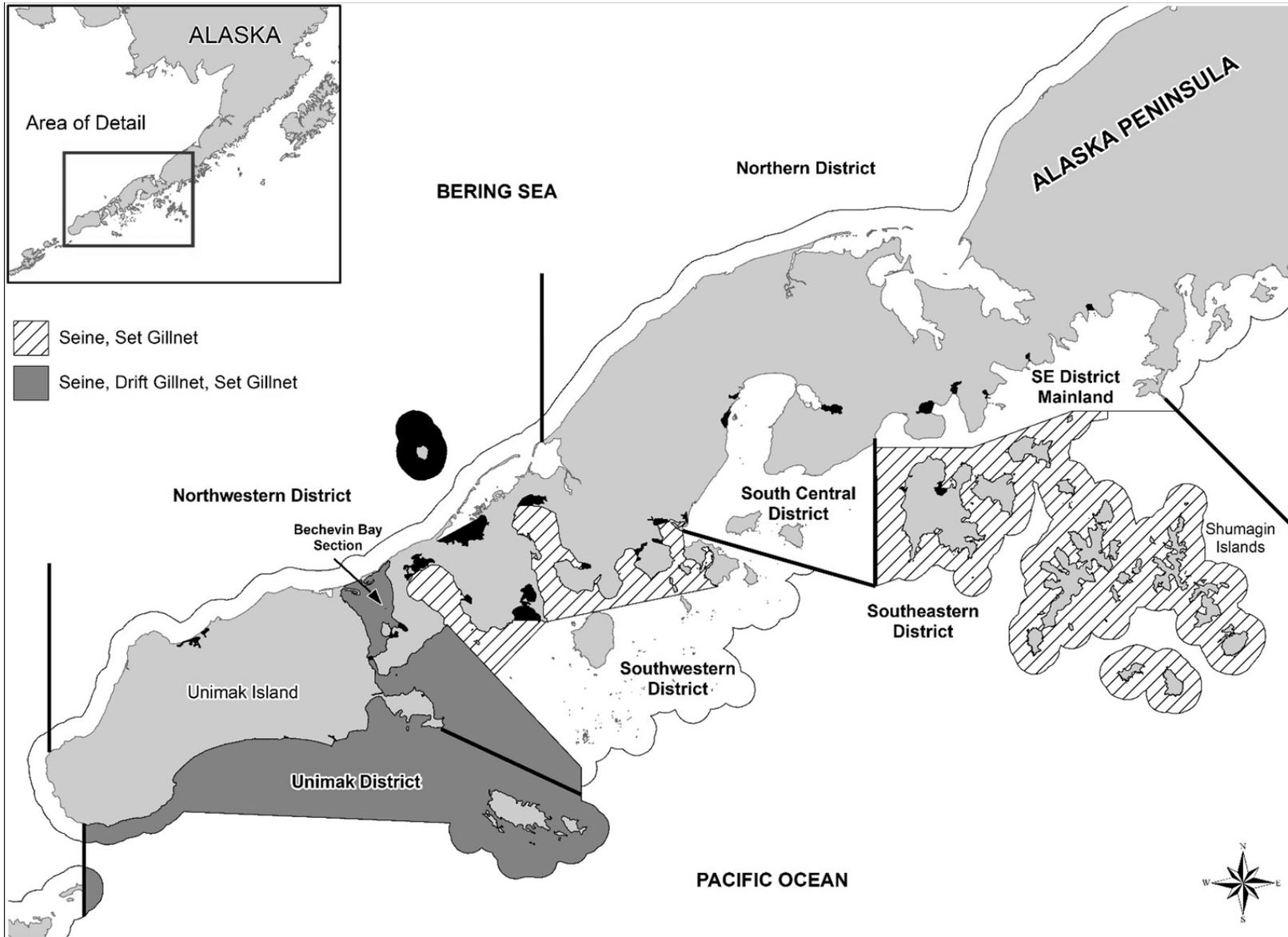


Figure 140-4.- Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas proposed for set gillnet, drift gillnet, and seine gear.

**PROPOSAL 141** – Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to require the department to manage the June fishery by emergency order to close those areas within the management plan. Amend 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. to allow other gear types to be used in the commercial fishery.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont Jr.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Fishing season and commercial fishing periods would be operated by emergency order in Registration Area M during the month of June for selective gear types (seines, dip nets, hook and line, and other gear types) that can selectively harvest sockeye salmon and release all other types of salmon bound for Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim areas.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 141-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 141-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

5AAC 09.330 outlines which gear may be used in each district and section of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area. Gillnet specifications and operations are listed in 5AAC 09.331 and seine specifications and operations are defined in 5AAC 09.332. Generally, set gillnet gear is allowed in all areas open to commercial fishing in June in the South Alaska Peninsula. Drift gillnet gear is allowed to fish in the Unimak District, the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District, and the outer portions of the Thin Point, General, Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Volcano Bay Sections of the Southwestern District in the June fishery. Purse seine gear is allowed to fish in the Unimak District, the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District (excluding the Volcano and Belkofski Bay Sections), and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District during open periods in June.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** It is unclear what the effect would be if the proposal was adopted. Targeted fishing for sockeye salmon in the South Alaska Peninsula June fishery and disallowing the harvest of king, chum, and coho salmon is the intention of the proposal. It appears this proposal would allow various gear types to harvest salmon but does not specify when or which gear would be used. Use of selective gear types would significantly reduce salmon harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the

last fishing period 64 hours in duration. The management strategy established by the board in 2004 included concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings by changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. However, the department does not have the ability to differentiate which salmon are bound to AYK and would require guidance on the gear type allocative aspects of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery if permit holders would need to purchase new and different gear to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

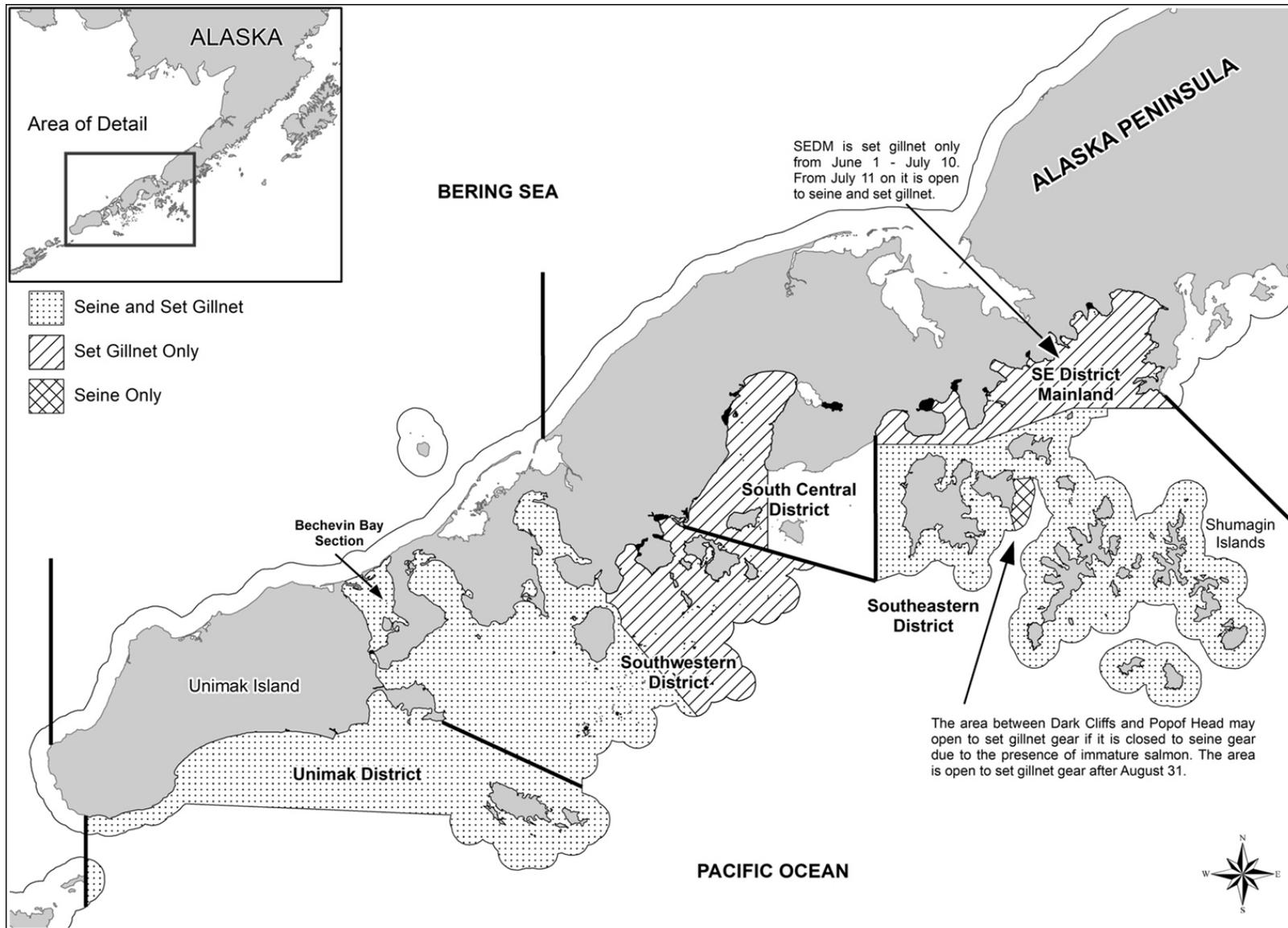


Figure 141-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

June 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		6 a.m.	<b>Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only)</b>		10 p.m.	6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Open 88 hours</b>				6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 p.m.		6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	<b>Open 88 hours</b>			10 p.m.		

Figure 141-2.—Current fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

**PROPOSAL 142 – Amend *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time for set gillnet gear only.**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Change the fishing windows for set gillnet gear only so that fishing starts later in June and fishing hours are shifted from June to July. The overall fishing hours currently allowed in June and July combined would remain unchanged.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 142-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 142-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear.

The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* defines fishing periods from July 6 through July 31 in all districts of the South Alaska Peninsula, excluding the Southeastern District Mainland until July 26 (Figure 142-3). The commissioner may establish by emergency order, for all gear types, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 142-4). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July. Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point (Figure 142-5). Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections (Figure 142-6).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Fishing for set gillnet gear would shift to later in June and more fishing in July. Overall hours would remain the same. Fishing time in June would be delayed until June 10 for set gillnet gear only and the commercial fishing periods would be as follows:

6:00 a.m. June 10 until 3:00 p.m. June 13	81 hours
6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 17	64 hours
6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m. June 22	64 hours
6:00 a.m. June 25 until 10:00 p.m. June 27	64 hours
6:00 a.m. June 29 until 6:00 p.m. June 30	36 hours

For the post-June fishery, fishing times would be as follows for set gillnet gear only:

6:00 a.m. July 5 until 10:00 p.m. July 7	64 hours
6:00 a.m. July 10 until 10:00 p.m. July 12	64 hours
6:00 a.m. July 15 until 10:00 p.m. July 17	64 hours
6:00 a.m. July 20 until 10:00 p.m. July 22	64 hours
6:00 a.m. July 25 until 10:00 p.m. July 27	64 hours
6:00 a.m. July 29 until 6:00 p.m. July 30	36 hours

The proposed number of hours fished for set gillnet gear would be 665 hours, which is the same number of hours currently allowed in regulation for June and July combined (Figures 142-2 and 4).

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2004, a commercial salmon fishery schedule was established by the board that began on June 7 at 6:00 a.m. Fishing periods were set at 88 hours in length and separated by 32-hour closures. The board set the fishery closure at 10:00 p.m. on June 29 with the last fishing period 64 hours in duration. During the 2004 management strategy set by the board, there were concurrent fishing times for all gear types. The June fishing schedule has been modified at several board meetings, changing the length of fishery periods, and sometimes opening for different gear types at different times. The current schedule has been in effect since 2019.

The 2013 board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon warranted more fishing time, however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats and Northwest Stepovak Sections, were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

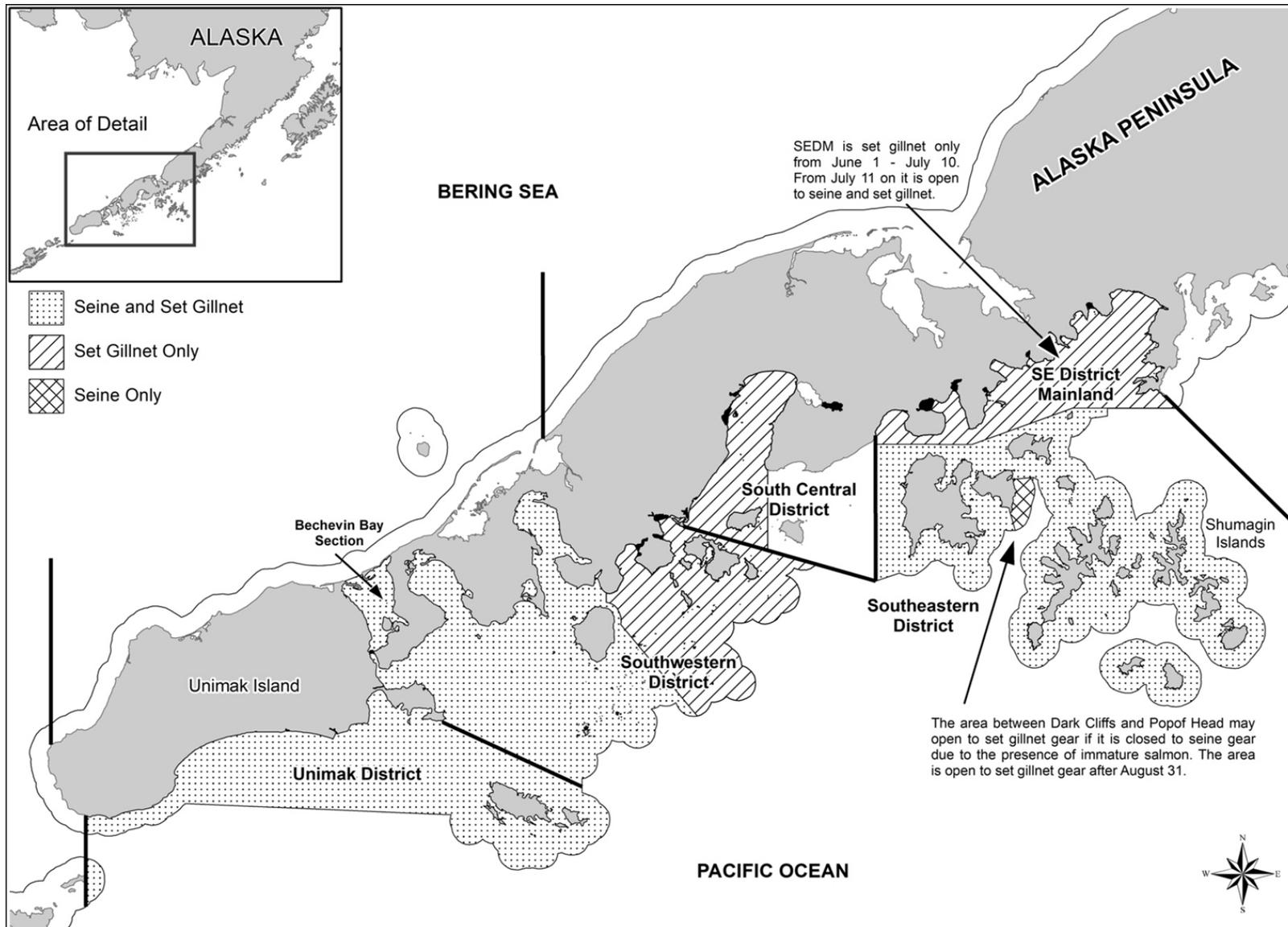


Figure 142-1.—Map of the June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for areas allowed for set gillnet and seine gear.

June 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Proposed fishing times for set gillnet gear						
Current Fishing Periods						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only) 6 a.m. 10 p.m.				6 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Open 81 hours		3 p.m.	6 a.m.	Open 64 hours 6 a.m. 10 p.m.		
Open 88 hours		10 p.m.		Open 88 hours		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Open 64 hours 6 a.m. 10 p.m.				6 a.m.
		Open 88 hours 6 a.m. 10 p.m.				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
6 a.m.	Open 64 hours		10 p.m.	Open 36 hours		6 p.m.
6 a.m.	Open 88 hours			10 p.m.		

Figure 142-2.-Current and proposed fishing times for the South Alaska Peninsula in June.

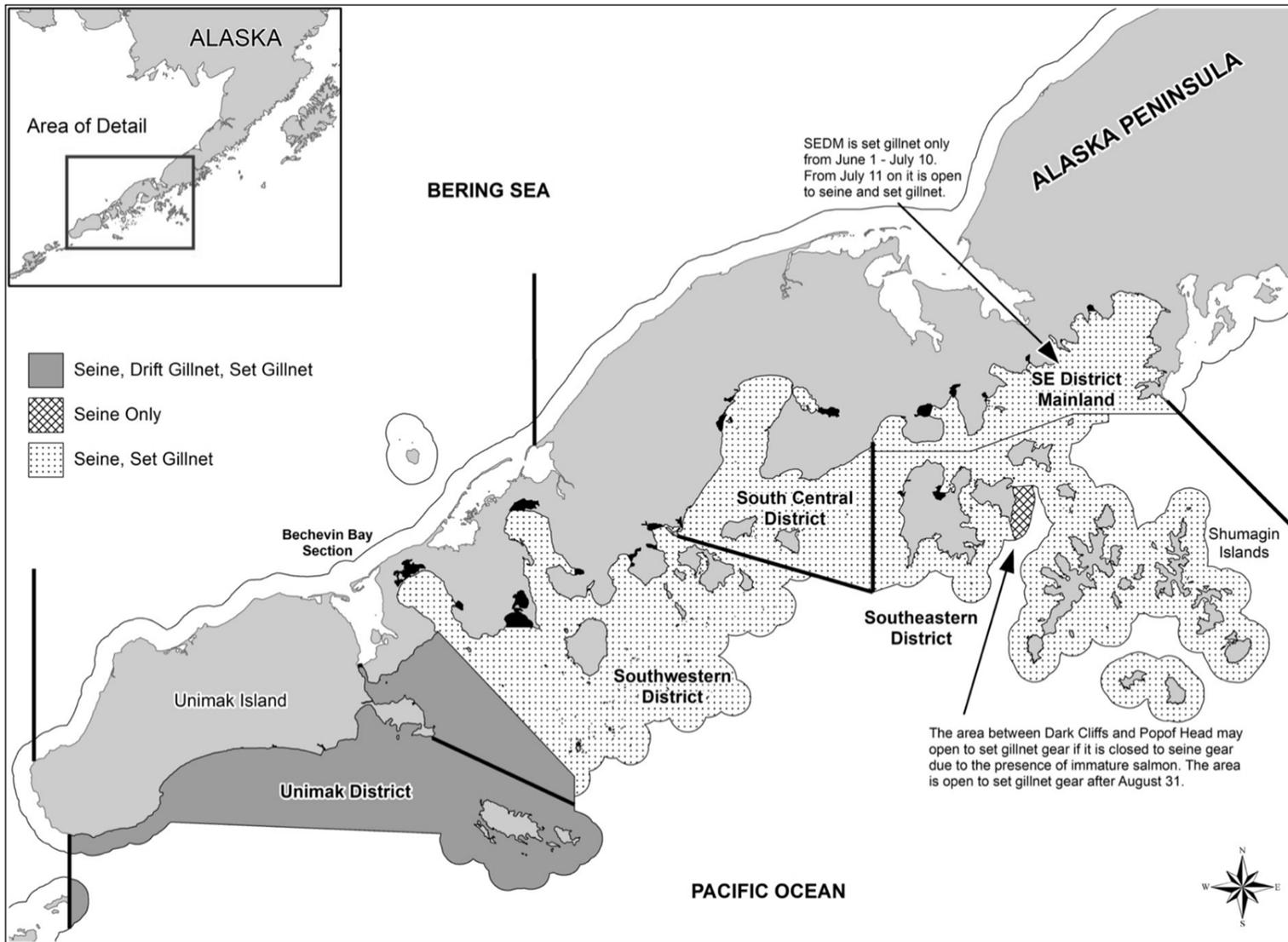


Figure 142-3.—Map of the post-June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries and permitted gear types.

Note: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM						
July 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Proposed fishing times for set gillnet gear						
Current fishing periods						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			6 a.m.	Open 64 hours		10 p.m.
				6 a.m.	33 Hours	
					3 p.m.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	6 a.m.	Open 64 hours				6 a.m.
		36 Hours			36 Hours	
			6 p.m.			6 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Open 64 hours				6 a.m.	Open 64 hours	
						10 p.m.
		6 a.m.	36 Hours			6 a.m.
						36
			6 p.m.			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		6 a.m.	Open 64 hours			6 a.m.
hours				36 Hours		36 hours
			6 a.m.			
				6 p.m.		
30	31					
6 a.m.	36 Hours					6 p.m.

Figure 142-4.-Calendar of the current and proposed fishing times in the post-June fishery for the South Alaska Peninsula.

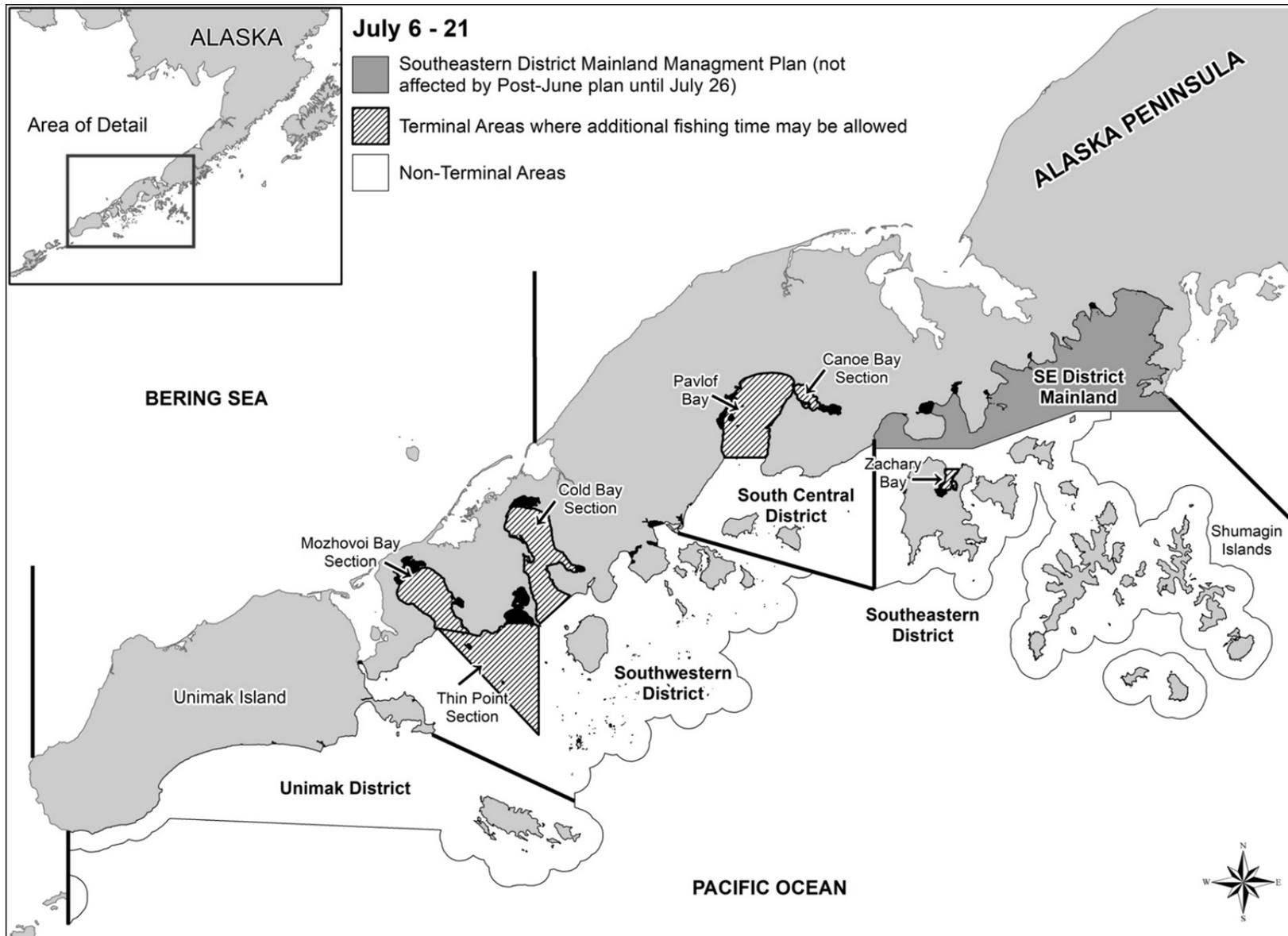


Figure 142-5.—Map of the post-June terminal harvest areas from July 6 through July 21.

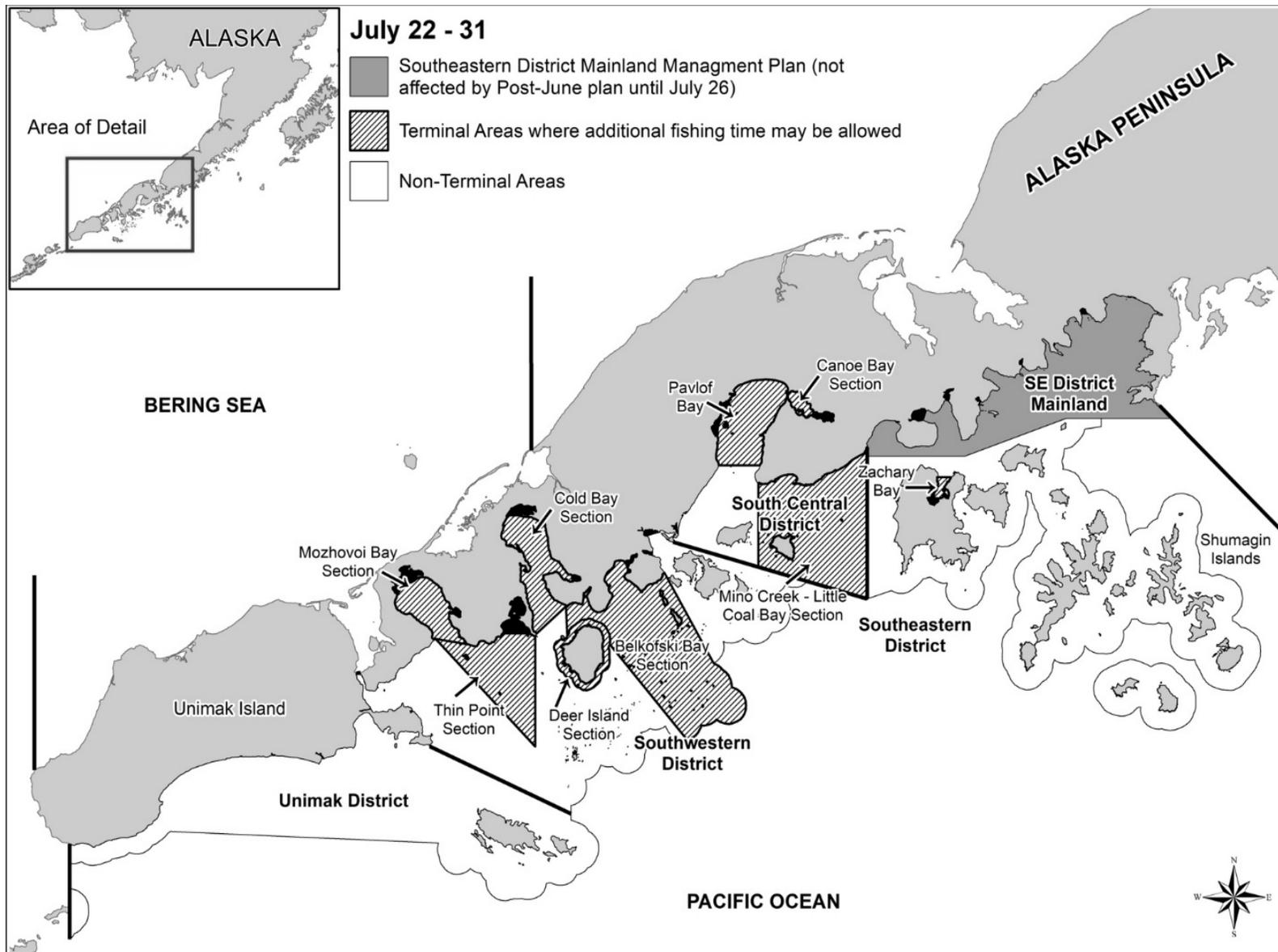


Figure 142-6.—Map of the additional post-June terminal harvest areas from July 22 through July 31.

## *South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (5 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 143** – Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment.

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This seeks to close fishing by set gillnet gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District if the immature salmon seine test fishery results lead to a closure to fishing by seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section or (unclear from proposal) require 5 ¼” mesh for set gillnet gear if fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section due to the presence of immature salmon. This also seeks to change how immature salmon are counted during the immature salmon test fishery by changing the definition from immature salmon gilled in the seine set to all immature salmon caught in the seine set. Changes to mesh size for set gillnets would affect 5 AAC 09.330 (f)(1).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* states that the department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to assess the abundance and presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close the seine fishery by emergency order in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, “immature salmon, per set, are present” means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Reduce commercial fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District or require minimum set gillnet mesh size if immature salmon are present.

**BACKGROUND:** *Immature Salmon Background:* Immature salmon harvests were first brought to the department’s attention in 1963. The presence of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters has warranted restrictions to commercial fishing in some years. These restrictions were applied to all gear types in affected areas from late June into July in 1963, 1968, 1969, 1974, and 1979, and for purse seine fishing only during the 1989–1992, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2015, 2016, and 2017 seasons. Immature salmon usually migrate out of the Shumagin Islands area by July 23, although 1992 closures remained in effect until July 29.

Immature salmon have been most prevalent in the Shumagin Islands Section and the concern for catching immature salmon is restricted to purse seine gear. Under current regulations, seine mesh size may not exceed three and a half inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line, which may not exceed 7 inches.

In 1990, the department’s test-fishing program was instituted in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District to determine the presence and abundance of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters prior to commercial purse seine fishing periods in July. In the Shumagin Islands

Section, most purse seine fishing effort occurs in the near shore waters of Popof Island from Popof Head to Red Bluff. For this reason, test fishing sites were established in these areas (Figures 143-1 and 143-2).

In 1998, the board adopted a regulation that defined immature salmon and required the department to conduct an immature salmon test fishery in July (5 AAC 09.366(i)). The board also changed the earliest general opening date of the post-June fishery in non-terminal areas from July 20 to July 6. Before 1998, the department conducted a test fishing program in mid-July to assess the presence of immature salmon in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Since 1998, the test fish program has been conducted in early July.

Prior to 1998, the regulation read:

*(i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine test fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area.*

In 2001, the wording was revised to further define immature salmon:

*(ii) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine test fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, “immature salmon, per set are present” means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.*

The 2001 wording change was not a change in methodology, rather, it was to put what was already in practice into regulation. In order to comply with specific wording in the 1998 regulation, a reliable inseason estimate of the presence of immature salmon would have been necessary. Specifically, the number of biologically immature fish present per set would have to be determined rather than the number of fish gilled in the seine webbing. In 2000, research was undertaken by the department to develop methods for determining maturity and to identify the proportion of immature salmon among gilled fish in the Shumagin Island test fishery. This research concluded that “in order to maintain the historical standards of criteria required to maintain the post-June fishing season, the number of gilled salmon per set should remain the basis of estimating the number of immature salmon present in the post-June fishery” and that “the number of gilled salmon in the immature test fishery should be an appropriate index of the immatures present”. This study also suggested the department did not have information indicating the threshold number of 100 immature salmon should be higher.

Table 143-2 is provided to demonstrate the results of the test fishery from 1990 until 2018 by providing the number of adult salmon caught, the number of immature salmon caught, average number of salmon caught per set, and a ten-year average.

***Minimum Mesh Size Background:*** Concerns over harvests of chum salmon in the 1980s and weak Yukon River chum salmon runs resulted in adoption of gear restrictions prior to the 1990 salmon

season that limited the depth of gillnet and seine gear, and the mesh size of seine gear in the June and post-June South Peninsula fisheries. The legal depth of gillnet gear was unlimited in regulation until just prior to the 1990 salmon season, in which a proposal was adopted that limited gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts to 90 meshes. The requirement of set gillnet mesh size to be no less than five and one-quarter inches had been in regulation since statehood. On the North Peninsula, the minimum mesh size of five and one-quarter inches was removed in several sections between 1992 and 1998, and by 2001, the minimum gillnet mesh size restriction of five and one-quarter inches was removed from all districts in the North Peninsula.

For South Alaska Peninsula fisheries, following the 1994 season, the board repealed minimum mesh size requirements for drift and set gillnet gear during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries described in 5 AAC 09.365(b) and (c) when the commissioner opens fishing periods under 5 AAC 09.365(d). In 2010, the board adopted reduced mesh size requirements for set gillnet gear in the Southeastern District Mainland beginning July 26 and the Shumagin Islands Section beginning August 1 to four and one-half inches to target pink salmon more effectively. In 2016, minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear was repealed and currently, there is no minimum mesh size for drift gillnet gear in Registration Area M. In 2019, the board repealed (5 AAC 09.366(b)(3) which required a minimum mesh size for set gillnet gear of 5 ¼ inches from July 6 through July 31 and 4 ½ inches beginning August 1 in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. As a result of these regulatory changes, there are no longer minimum mesh size requirements for gillnet mesh size in Registration Area M.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If the board were to change the definition of immature salmon the department would require guidance on how to define caught immature salmon in a way that is practical and cost effective for inseason management.

**COST ANALYSIS:** The department does not believe that approval of the main objective of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. If minimum mesh sizes were changed it may require fishermen to purchase appropriately sized nets. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department, as it has been a standard procedure for the department to conduct an immature test fishery annually since 1990.

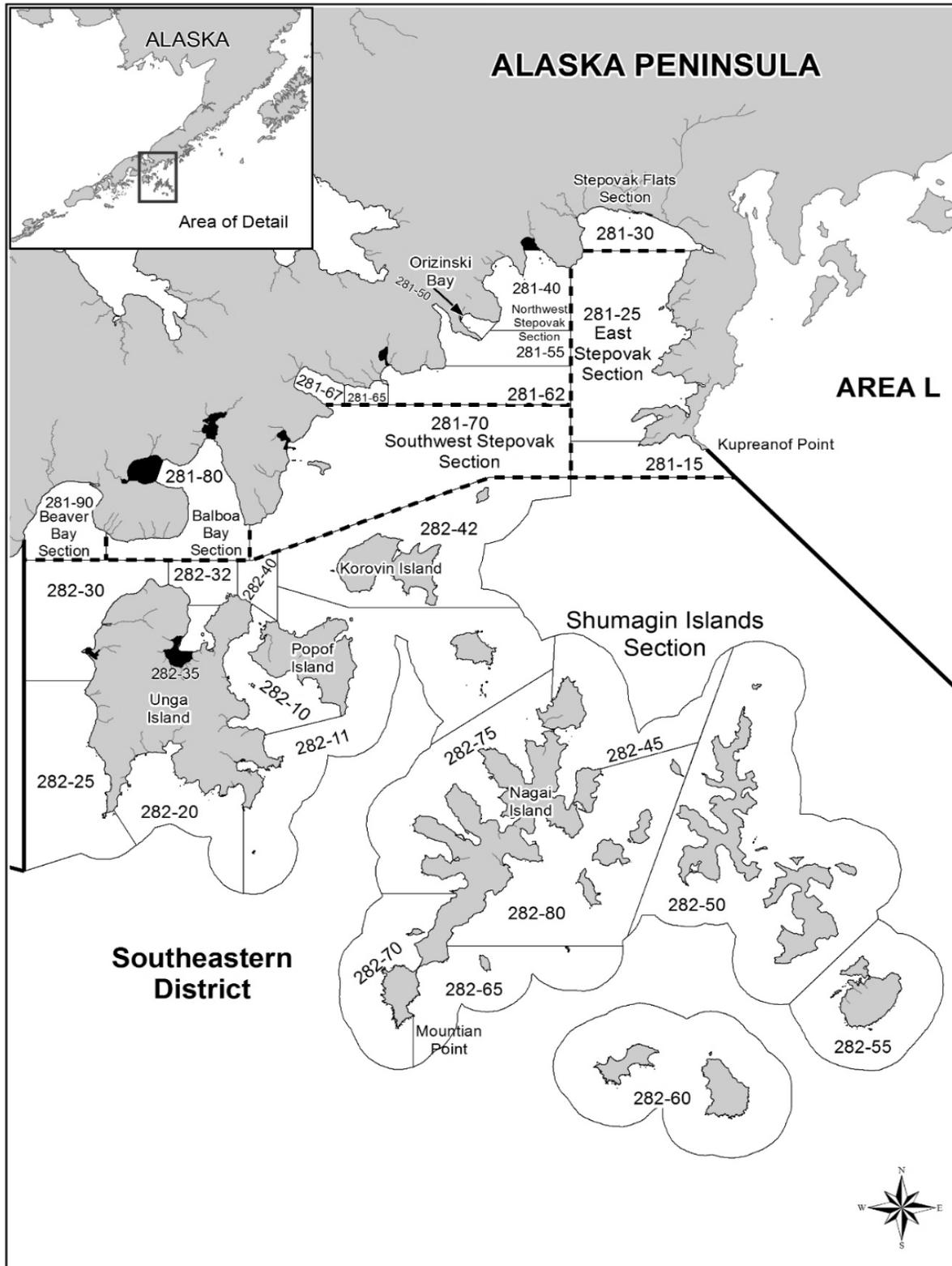


Figure 143-1.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point (Southeastern District) with the statistical salmon fishing areas shown.

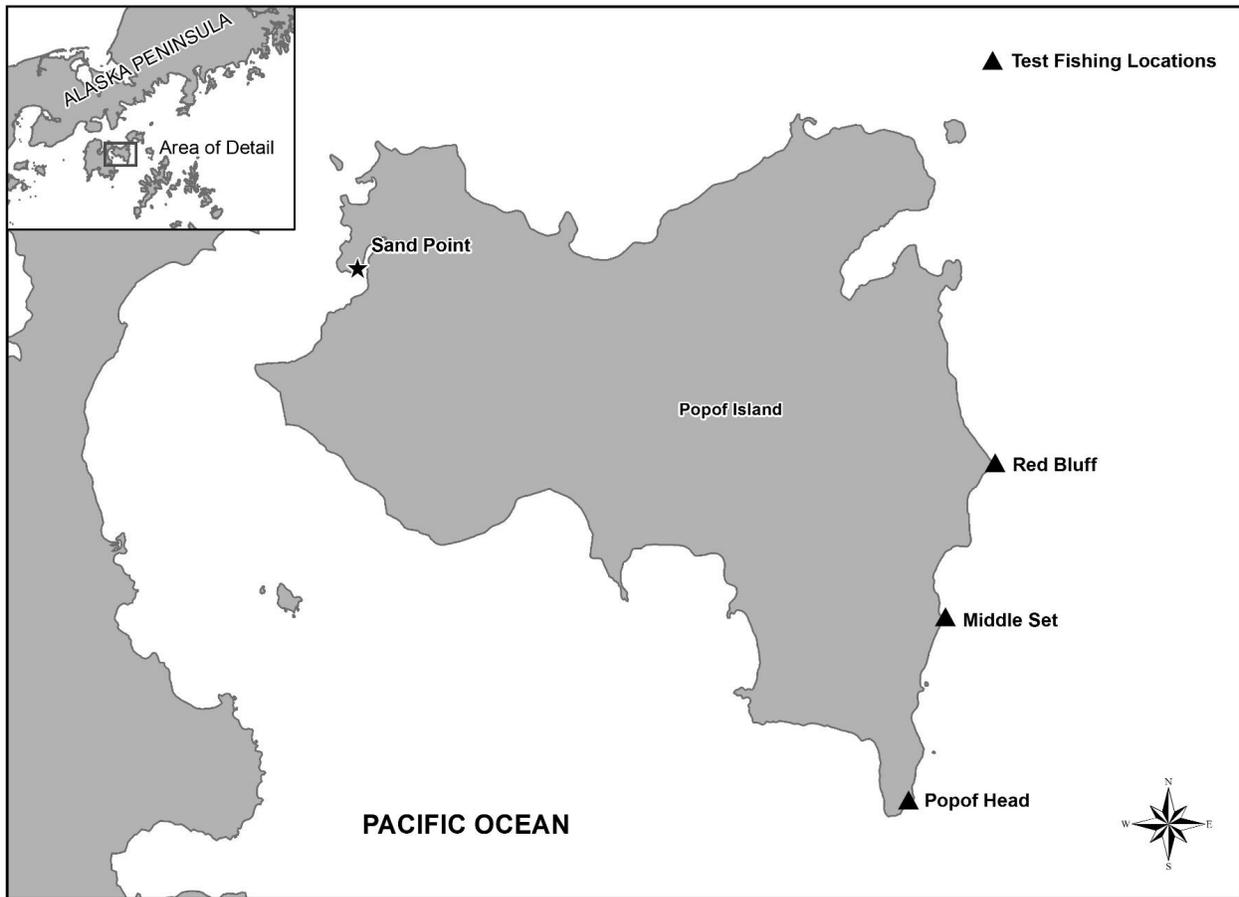


Figure 143-2.—Map of Popof Island with test fishing sites defined.

Table 143-1.--Summary of the immature test fishery from 1990 to present.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of Adult Salmon						Number of Immature Salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
1990	July 3 - August 13	29 Avg/Set	23 0.8	1,194 41.2	1,708 58.9	4,516 155.7	3,104 107.0	10,545 363.6	39 1.3	796 27.4	0 0.0	1,138 39.2	1,973 68.0
1991	July 1 - 19	51 Avg/Set	148 2.9	3,791 74.3	1,422 27.9	7,077 138.8	4,092 80.2	16,530 324.1	331 6.5	13,167 258.2	0 0.0	7,410 145.3	20,908 410.0
1992	July 10 - 29	44 Avg/Set	134 3.0	2,413 54.8	3,695 84.0	10,167 231.1	4,388 99.7	20,797 472.7	892 20.3	13,449 305.7	5 0.1	2,087 47.4	16,433 373.5
1993	July 12 - 18	24 Avg/Set	259 10.8	1,804 75.2	4,892 203.8	2,944 122.7	827 34.5	10,726 446.9	393 16.4	2,188 91.2	0 0.0	139 5.8	2,720 113.3
1994	July 14 - 27	31 Avg/Set	99 3.2	1,171 37.8	4,221 136.2	8,530 275.2	2,657 85.7	16,678 538.0	135 4.4	3,685 118.9	2 0.1	11 0.4	3,833 123.6
1995	July 12 - 17	30 Avg/Set	122 4.1	4,000 133.3	3,671 122.4	8,456 281.9	2,592 86.4	18,841 628.0	215 7.2	221 7.4	0 0.0	390 13.0	826 27.5
1996	July 12 - 18	35 Avg/Set	188 5.4	2,093 59.8	15,187 433.9	7,010 200.3	7,391 211.2	31,869 910.5	211 6.0	520 14.9	4 0.1	234 6.7	969 27.7
1997	July 12 - 19	39 Avg/Set	373 9.6	2,716 69.6	3,536 90.7	4,925 126.3	4,075 104.5	15,625 400.6	3,361 86.2	674 17.3	32 0.8	182 4.7	4,249 108.9
1998	July 02 - 03	10 Avg/Set	6 0.6	711 71.1	33 3.3	1,200 120.0	499 49.9	2,449 244.9	5 0.5	24 2.4	0 0.0	0 0.0	29 2.9
1999	July 01 - 07	26 Avg/Set	26 1.0	12,284 472.5	18 0.7	12,340 474.6	4,680 180.0	29,348 1128.8	13 0.5	2,132 82.0	0 0.0	42 1.6	2,187 84.1
2000	July 03 - 05	13 Avg/Set	9 0.7	1,597 122.8	101 7.8	2,946 226.6	1,919 147.6	6,572 505.5	13 1.0	77 5.9	0 0.0	126 9.7	216 16.6
2001	July 02 - 16	50 Avg/Set	318 6.4	6,258 125.2	3,353 67.1	9,382 187.6	10,772 215.4	30,083 601.7	1,265 25.3	3,241 64.8	17 0.3	1,382 27.6	5,905 118.1

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Table 143-1.- Page 2 of 3.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of Adult Salmon						Number of Immature Salmon				
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2002	July 02 - 04	15	29	1,020	11	443	1,227	2,730	325	911	1	280	1,517
		Avg/Set	1.9	68.0	0.7	29.5	81.8	182.0	21.7	60.7	0.1	18.7	101.1
2003	July 02 - 20	28	26	819	1,279	4,646	2,275	9,045	1,419	8,640	43	512	10,614
		Avg/Set	0.9	29.3	45.7	165.9	81.3	323.0	50.7	308.6	1.5	18.3	379.1
2004	July 07 - 08	10	81	507	542	1,131	1,827	4,088	42	111	0	279	432
		Avg/Set	8.1	50.7	54.2	113.1	182.7	408.8	4.2	11.1	0.0	27.9	43.2
2005	July 02 - 05	22	68	1,197	2,137	7,117	2,140	12,659	1,110	263	2	211	1,586
		Avg/Set	3.1	54.4	97.1	323.5	97.3	575.4	50.5	12.0	0.1	9.6	72.1
2006	July 02 - 05	15	21	1,211	440	2,254	7,855	11,781	69	356	0	66	491
		Avg/Set	1.4	80.7	29.3	150.3	523.7	785.4	4.6	23.7	0.0	4.4	32.7
2007	July 02 - 05	17	12	11,389	781	7,036	1,300	20,518	2	951	0	9	962
		Avg/Set	0.7	669.9	45.9	413.9	76.5	1206.9	0.1	55.9	0.0	0.5	56.6
2008	July 03 - 08	23	12	9,310	1,901	14,838	11,436	37,497	22	2,167	0	391	2,580
		Avg/Set	0.5	404.8	82.7	645.1	497.2	1630.3	1.0	94.2	0.0	17.0	112.2
2009	July 03 - 05	18	28	1,587	389	21,101	3,825	26,930	76	644	3	260	983
		Avg/Set	1.6	88.2	21.6	1172.3	212.5	1496.1	4.2	35.8	0.2	14.4	54.6
2010	July 02 - 05	18	13	6,418	179	4,180	1,608	12,398	2	416	0	7	425
		Avg/Set	0.7	356.6	9.9	232.2	89.3	688.8	0.1	23.1	0.0	0.4	23.6
2011	July 02 - 05	18	7	1,151	49	11,980	1,315	14,502	4	267	0	3	274
		Avg/Set	0.4	63.9	2.7	665.6	73.1	805.7	0.2	14.8	0.0	0.2	15.2
2012	July 02 - 05	18	4	2,668	16	947	1,192	4,827	7	108	0	3	118
		Avg/Set	0.2	148.2	0.9	52.6	66.2	268.2	0.4	6.0	0.0	0.2	6.6
2013	July 02 - 05	20	4	2,366	1,002	7,043	1,632	12,037	5	662	0	0	667
		Avg/Set	0.2	118.3	50.1	352.2	81.6	601.9	0.3	33.1	0.0	0.0	33.4

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Table 143-1.- Page 3 of 3.

Year	Duration	Number of sets	Number of Adult Salmon					Number of Immature Salmon					
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Total
2014	July 02 - 05	23	356	2,959	957	977	3,270	8,519	161	143	0	26	330
		Avg/Set	15.5	128.7	41.6	42.5	142.2	370.4	7.0	6.2	0.0	1.1	14.3
2015	July 02 - 09	21	116	1,502	5,915	27,904	3,808	39,245	1,498	236	57	616	2,407
		Avg/Set	5.5	71.5	281.7	1328.8	181.3	1868.8	71.3	11.2	2.7	29.3	114.6
2016	July 02 - 09	18	994	593	179	3,706	598	6,070	1,433	182	0	9	1,624
		Avg/Set	55.2	32.9	9.9	205.9	33.2	337.2	79.6	10.1	0.0	0.5	90.2
2017	July 02 - 16	39	1,612	4,945	2,088	4,596	10,577	23,818	2,826	8,556	0	1,369	12,751
		Avg/Set	41.3	126.8	53.5	117.8	271.2	610.7	72.5	219.4	0.0	35.1	326.9
2018	July 02 - 05	20	62	1,037	241	1,064	2,172	4,576	0	214	1	15	230
		Avg/Set	3.1	51.9	12.1	53.2	108.6	228.8	0.0	10.7	0.1	0.8	11.5
2019	July 02 - 05	18	206	663	810	29,807	1,762	33,248	390	176	2	435	1,003
		Avg/Set	11.4	36.8	45.0	1655.9	97.9	1847.1	21.7	9.8	0.1	24.2	55.7
2020	July 02 - 05	18	188	1,267	76	1,230	1,743	4,504	49	131	1	122	303
		Avg/Set	10.4	70.4	4.2	68.3	96.8	250.2	2.7	7.3	0.1	6.8	16.8
2021	July 03 - 05	11	101	3,533	196	196	16,441	32,059	41	708	0	571	1,279
		Avg/Set	9.2	321.2	17.8	17.8	1494.6	2914.5	3.7	64.4	0.0	51.9	116.3
2022	July 02 - 05	18	974	5,445	24	2,322	5,929	14,694	410	276	0	79	775
		Avg/Set	54.1	302.5	1.3	129.0	329.4	816.3	22.8	15.3	0.0	4.4	43.1
2012-2021		20	420	2,453	1,046	7,254	4,466	16,691	620	1,036	6	295	1,953
Average		Avg/Set	20.6	120.4	51.4	356.2	219.3	819.6	30.4	50.9	0.3	14.5	95.9

**PROPOSAL 144 – Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts.**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Manos.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** After July 31, if the department’s preseason South Alaska Peninsula total pink salmon run forecast is above 3 million fish, the department may provide two 36-hour openings per week starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts. The department would still have inseason emergency order authority and discretion to adjust fishing time and area.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods in the South Alaska Peninsula are based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs. From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods are based primarily on coho salmon abundance, although late pink and chum salmon run strength may be considered when determining fishing time. Aerial surveys are conducted by department staff to estimate the escapement of sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon on the South Alaska Peninsula. Information from these surveys is then used for inseason management and to open the fishery by emergency order when escapement goals are achieved or anticipated to be met.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This could shift management from openings based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs to a scheduled fishery based on the pink salmon run forecast.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post June Salmon Management Plan* for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). The plan allowed for the entire South Peninsula to be opened to commercial fishing by emergency order based on local stock strength from July 20 until the close of the season. In 1998, regulations pertaining to August onwards were further refined by the board. Specifically, the following first appear in regulation:

**(h)** The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula as follows:

(1) from August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;

(2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** this proposal due to conservation concerns. The highly variable magnitude and timing of returns of salmon to the South Alaska Peninsula exposes pink and chum salmon stocks to overharvest if commercial fishery openings were to occur prior to adequate escapement. Although the department does forecast runs of pink salmon, these forecasts have wide ranges with, at best, fair confidence. Additionally, this proposal fails to address how other salmon species would be adequately managed to avoid overharvest.

**COST ANALYSIS:** The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

**PROPOSAL 145 – Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Julian Manos.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would change the fishing periods established by emergency order from July 10 through July 31 to increase fishing opportunity. The proposal seeks to amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by increasing fishing time from 249 to 273 hours. Starting July 10, the post-June commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., July 10 and close at **10:00 p.m.** [6:00 P.M.] the following day; commercial fishing will then close for **54 hours** [60 HOURS] and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later. After July 31, commercial salmon fishing periods would be established by emergency order based on the abundance of local stocks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish by emergency order, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 145-1). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July.

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would increase overall fishing time in July from 249 hours to 273 hours. The first fishing period would remain the same, subsequent periods would increase from 36 to 40 hours, and there would be 6 40-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 instead of 6 36-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 (Figure 145-1).

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998 the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in non-terminal areas during July 22 through July 31; this was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

July 2023 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Proposed fishing times in Proposal 145				273 hours total		
Current Fishing Periods				249 hours total		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				6 a.m. - 6 a.m.	33 Hours	
				6 a.m. - 6 a.m.	33 Hours	3 p.m. - 3 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	40 hours			6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	40 hours
	6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	36 hours			6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	36 hours
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	40 hours			6 a.m. - 10 p.m.
		6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	36 hours			6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.			6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	40 hours		
6 p.m. - 6 p.m.			6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	36 hours		
30	31					
6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	40 hours					
6 a.m. - 6 p.m.	36 hours					

Figure 145-1.-Calendar of the current Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and Proposal 145 July fishing schedule.

**PROPOSAL 146 – Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods.**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Eastlick.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would change the fishing periods established by emergency order from July 10 through July 31 to increase fishing opportunity. The proposal seeks to amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula by increasing fishing time for all gear types from 249 to 481 hours. Starting July 10, the Post-June commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., July 10 and close at 10:00 p.m. [6:00 P.M.] two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 8 hours [60 HOURS] and reopen at 6:00 a.m. the next day. After July 31, commercial salmon fishing periods would be established by emergency order based on the abundance of local stocks.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 146-1). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July.

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would increase overall fishing time in July from 249 hours to 481 hours. The first fishing period would remain the same, subsequent periods would increase from 36 to 64 hours, and there would be 7 64-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 instead of 6 36-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 (Figure 146-1).

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998 the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by a minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in non-terminal areas during July 22 through July 31; this was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the proposed timeframe that would increase fishing pressure during the later two-thirds of July. This proposal seeks to increase fishing opportunity by 232 hours during July and increasing fishing by 186 hours between July 14 and July 31. This would increase fishing pressure on the early portion of local pink and chum salmon stocks, which could be detrimental. In years with low returns, early run salmon stocks could be overfished and the run timing of stocks could be altered. In accordance with the *Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222(c)(2)(D)), the department shall distribute harvest throughout the course of particular salmon stocks' run timing to help maintain the integrity of that stock and decrease the likelihood of temporal shifting in future returns of that stock.

**COST ANALYSIS:** The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

July 2023 All Gear Types Schedule								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						1		
<b>Proposed fishing times in Proposal 146</b>			<b>481 hours total</b>					
<b>Current Fishing Periods</b>			<b>249 hours total</b>					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
				6 a.m. 6 a.m.	33 Hours			
				6 a.m. 6 a.m.	33 Hours			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours		10 p.m.	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours		
	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 hours		6 p.m.	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 hours		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours		10 p.m.	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours		10 p.m.	
		6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 hours		6 p.m.	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 Hours	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
		6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours		10 p.m.	6 a.m. 6 a.m.	64 hours	
	6 p.m. 6 p.m.		6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 hours		6 p.m.		
30	31							
6 a.m. 6 a.m.	36 hours							

Figure 146-1.—Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and Proposal 146 July fishing schedule.

**PROPOSAL 147 – Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear.**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This would change the fishing periods established by emergency order from July 10 through July 31 to increase fishing opportunity for set gillnet gear only. The proposal seeks to amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula by increasing set gillnet fishing time from 249 to 375 hours. Starting July 10, the Post-June commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear would begin at 6:00 a.m., Monday and close at 10:00 p.m. [6:00 P.M.] Friday. It is unclear from this proposal if set gillnetters would maintain this same schedule after July 31 or be subject to the existing regulations for all gear types, which state that commercial salmon fishing periods are established by emergency order based on the abundance of local stocks after July 31.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** From July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish by emergency order, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 147-1). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July.

Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections.

Aforementioned regulations apply the same fishing time to all gear types.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** This would increase overall fishing time for set gillnetters in July from 249 hours to 375 hours. The first fishing period would remain the same, following periods would increase to 114 hours, and there would be 3 114-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 instead of 6 36-hour openings between July 10 and July 31 (Figure 147-1).

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 1974, the July South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery was generally open five days per week with a total season closure on August 10. During the 1974 and 1975 fishing season, the fishery was severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976 through 1991, the salmon fishery was managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. Fishing periods from July 6 through July 18 were based on chum salmon run strength and from July 18 through about August 20 on pink salmon run strength.

In November of 1991, the board established the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366). The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same

period. One reason for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through July 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

In 1998 the board made changes to the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* which defined two distinct fishing periods within the month of July. For the period July 6 through July 21, the board increased non-terminal area fishing opportunities. Fishing periods were limited to a maximum of 24 hours followed by a closure of at least 48 hours. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapement of pink and chum salmon were adequate. Terminal areas for the July 6 through July 21 fishing period included Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, East Pavlof Bay, West Pavlof Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections.

For the period July 22 through July 31, the board reduced overall fishing time and restricted continuous fishing in late July in non-terminal areas. Fishing periods in non-terminal areas were limited to 36 hours. Each open fishing period was followed by minimum closure of 48 hours. The board also established a coho salmon cap of 60,000 fish in non-terminal areas during July 22 through July 31 which was repealed in 2004. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted. In addition to the terminal areas listed for the July 6 through July 21 fishing periods, the July 22 through July 31 fishing period include the terminal areas in the Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28), the section near Suzy Creek (after July 25), Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section, Belkofski Bay Section, and Deer Island Section.

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon were warranted; however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats, and the Northwest Stepovak Sections were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

## July 2023 All Gear Types Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Proposed times in Proposal 147 (Setnet only)			375 hours total			
Current Fishing Periods (all gear types)			249 hours total			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				6 a.m. 33 Hours		
				6 a.m. 33 Hours	3 p.m. 3 p.m.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	6 a.m. 114 hours				12 p.m. 36 hours	
	6 a.m. 36 hours	6 p.m.			6 a.m. 36 hours	6 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6 a.m. 114 hours				12 p.m. 36 Hours	
		6 a.m. 36 hours	6 p.m.			6 a.m. 36 Hours
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6 a.m. 114 hours				12 p.m. 36 hours	
6 p.m.			6 a.m. 36 hours	6 p.m.		
30	31					
6 a.m. 36 hours	6 p.m.					

Figure 147-1.—Calendar of the current *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and Proposal 147 July fishing schedule.

## *South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management (2 proposals)*

**PROPOSAL 148** – Amend a suite of management plans to reduce commercial fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula area.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. 5AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reduce fishing time by 50% in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365), the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366), and the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360), if the lower bound of escapement goals are projected to not be met in either the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers, based on preseason forecasts.

Additionally, modify areas open to fishing and implement gear type restrictions to reduce harvest of king and chum salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 148-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 148-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* defines fishing periods from July 6 through July 31 in all districts of the South Alaska Peninsula, excluding the Southeastern District Mainland until July 26 (Figure 148-3). The commissioner may establish by emergency order for all gear types, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 148-4). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July. Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point (Figure 148-5). Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections (Figure 148-6).

The *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360) allows commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM based on sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) from June 1 to July 25. The CMA must be projected to harvest at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and, prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** In years when king and chum salmon escapement goals were not projected to be met in the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers, fishing time would be reduced by half for all gear types throughout the season from June 1 through October 31 in all areas open to commercial fishing under current management plans. Additionally, unspecified areas could be closed to commercial fishing and restrictions to gear types could be made.

**BACKGROUND:** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District.

The *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (SEDM) 5 AAC 09.360 was established in 1985. The board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan, including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries,

management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South

Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area king salmon at 45,500–66,704; Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish; Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish; Yukon Area coho salmon at 20,500–51,980 fish; and Yukon Area pink salmon at 2,100–9,700 fish.

For the Kuskokwim River drainage, the board has set the king salmon ANS at 67,200–109,800 fish; the chum salmon ANS at 41,200–116,400 fish; the sockeye salmon ANS at 32,200–58,700 fish; the coho salmon ANS at 27,400–57,600 fish; and the pink salmon ANS at 500–2,000 fish.

Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that the Yukon king, summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon ANSs have not been met, nor have the Kuskokwim River king, chum, or coho salmon ANSs.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

**PROPOSAL 149 – Amend a suite of management plans for the South Alaska Peninsula area to reduce commercial fishing time.**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. 5AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reduce fishing time by 50% in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365), the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366), and the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360), if the lower bound of escapement goals are projected to not be met in either the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers, based on preseason forecasts.

Additionally, modify areas open to fishing and implement gear type restrictions to reduce harvest of king and chum salmon.

Implement a genetic testing program for the Area M commercial fisheries to identify stock of origin for effective management of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim king and chum salmon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West Pavlof Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 149-1). Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures (Figure 149-2). The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

The *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* defines fishing periods from July 6 through July 31 in all districts of the South Alaska Peninsula, excluding the Southeastern District Mainland until July 26 (Figure 149-3). The commissioner may establish by emergency order, for all gear types, one 33-hour fishing period, beginning July 6, followed by a 63-hour closure. The commercial fishery will reopen for six 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 60-hour closures from July 10 through July 31 (Figure 149-4). This equals a total of 249 hours of fishing opportunity in July. Additional fishing time in terminal harvest areas may also be provided during the 48-hour closures based on local salmon stock strength evaluated from harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys. From July 6 through July 21, terminal harvest areas are Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point (Figure 149-5). Terminal areas during the July 22 through July 31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through July 21 period, as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections (Figure 149-6).

In 2013, the board amended the July fishing schedule (5 AAC 09.366(d)) in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* by consolidating the number of fishing periods from nine to seven, while still offering the same 249 hours of fishing time. Under the 2013 regulations, additional fishing time could be permitted in designated terminal harvest areas if escapements of pink and chum salmon warranted more fishing time, however terminal areas within the Southeastern District Mainland, the Stepovak Flats and Northwest Stepovak Sections, were repealed from the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*.

The *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* 5 AAC 09.360 allows commercial salmon fishing opportunity in SEDM based on sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) from June 1 to July 25. The CMA must be projected to harvest at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the CMA, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA is at least 600,000 fish through July 25. As stated in 5 AAC 09.360(d), when harvestable surplus is expected to be more than 600,000 sockeye salmon and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the SEDM so that harvest approaches as near as possible to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA. From June 1 through July 25, 80% of sockeye salmon harvested in East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and prior to July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, are considered Chignik bound (5 AAC 09.360(f)).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** In years when king and chum salmon escapement goals were not projected to be met in the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers, fishing time would be reduced by half for all gear types throughout the season from June 1 through October 31 in all areas open to commercial fishing under current management plans. Additionally, unspecified areas could be closed to commercial fishing and restrictions to gear types could be made.

A genetics sampling program would also be implemented for king and chum salmon harvested in the Alaska Peninsula Area which would incur costs for the department.

**BACKGROUND:** The *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365) is in effect from June 6 through June 28. The June fishery includes the Unimak District, Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District, the Southwestern District, and the West and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. Fishing periods for the June fishery occur from 6:00 a.m. June 6 until 10:00 p.m. June 8 for 64 hours for set gillnet gear only followed by a closure of 32 hours. There are then four 88-hour fishing periods for all gear types from 6:00 a.m. June 10 until 10:00 p.m. June 13, 6:00 a.m. June 15 until 10:00 p.m. June 18, 6:00 a.m. June 20 until 10:00 p.m., June 23, and 6:00 a.m., June 25 until 10:00 p.m., June 28. Each of the fishing periods in June is separated by 32-hour closures. The June fishery currently allows 416 hours of fishing time for set gillnet gear and 352 hours of fishing for drift gillnet and seine gear.

The *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* (SEDM; 5 AAC 09.360) was established in 1985. The board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360), which included the CMA harvest thresholds and an allocation based on harvest of sockeye salmon in the CMA, Cape Igvak Section of the KMA, and in SEDM. This harvest allocation criterion has

fluctuated between 6% and 7% since its introduction. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to allocation of Chignik River system sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and definition of local stocks. The most recent change occurred in 2007 when the allocation was recalculated to 7.6% of sockeye salmon harvested in CMA. This removed the Cape Igvak sockeye salmon harvest component from the SEDM management plan allocation.

As far back as the early 1920s managers have understood that the Alaska Peninsula fishery is a mixed stock fishery that harvests local and non-local salmon stocks. All five species of salmon common in North America are harvested and sold in Alaska Peninsula Area commercial fisheries though some species, like sockeye salmon, may be preferred over other species. As salmon are migrating back to spawn in their natal rivers and streams, they may be harvested in fisheries along the way. For example, while some salmon harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries are from local stocks, some of the harvested salmon are bound for other areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and southcentral Alaska. Mixed stock salmon fisheries are designed and implemented with the understanding that salmon originating from a range of locations will be harvested. Because of known mixed stock nature of Alaska Peninsula fisheries, management plans for Alaska Peninsula fisheries include regulations addressing allocations and stipulations based on the strength of both local and non-local salmon runs.

Several studies have evaluated the stock composition of Alaska Peninsula Area harvests including tagging and genetic mixed stock analysis. Multiple tagging studies were conducted periodically from 1923 through 1987. However, the information from these historic tagging studies is limited to relatively small numbers of tags released from salmon caught in South Alaska Peninsula locations and recaptured in non-local areas including the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, and Kotzebue Management Areas. Genetic studies were conducted to evaluate the stock composition of salmon harvested in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries in 1993–1996 and post June fisheries in 1996–1997.

The most extensive effort to assess the genetic stock composition of salmon caught in western Alaska fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is known as WASSIP, the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program. As part of WASSIP, samples from chum and sockeye salmon caught in Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries between 2006 and 2009 (sockeye salmon: 2006 – 2008; chum salmon: 2007 – 2009) were genetically analyzed to estimate stock composition. Tissue samples were taken from chum salmon caught in June, post-June, and Southeast District Mainland fisheries from the South Alaska Peninsula and from the Northern District of the North Alaska Peninsula (Figure 1). The genetic baseline used to analyze WASSIP catch samples provides estimates to nine regional reporting groups (stocks), including three Western Alaska stock groups: 1. Kotzebue Sound; 2. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) which includes chum salmon from Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim River, Lower and Middle Yukon, and Norton Sound; and 3. Upper Yukon (i.e., fall chum salmon).

Stock composition estimates report the percentage of all samples analyzed that are assigned to a specific stock. Stock composition estimates answer the question, *what stock proportions are present in the chum salmon samples taken at this time from this area?* Stock composition estimates do not indicate what impact the harvest has to the stock and should not be extrapolated to other areas and times. Genetic mixed stock analysis detected CWAK chum salmon (range: 0.1%–22.1%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon in North Alaska Peninsula fisheries in 2007 and 2009 (no samples in 2008 due to fishery closure). Similarly, CWAK chum salmon were detected in Southeast District Mainland fisheries (range: 1.1% – 1.8%) but no Upper Yukon chum salmon

were identified. Chum salmon from the CWAK reporting group were identified in larger proportions from South Alaska Peninsula June fisheries, specifically in the Shumagin Islands Section (range: 19.5% – 67.6%), Ikatan area (range: 30.2% – 83.6%) and Unimak District (range: 34.9% – 87.3%). The percentage of CWAK chum salmon identified in South Alaska Peninsula harvests dropped substantially in post-June fisheries (range: 1.8% – 34.8%). The Upper Yukon stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.3%) of South Alaska Peninsula June and post-June harvests. The Kotzebue stock group made up less than 5% (range: 0% – 4.7%) of the samples from North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries.

Genetic stock composition estimates can be used with harvest numbers to estimate stock-specific harvests and answer the question, *how many chum salmon from Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups were harvested during Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Stock-specific harvest numbers are then divided by the total run of each stock to determine the harvest rate and answer the question, *what proportion of the total run of Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon chum salmon were harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries?* Figure 4 shows the harvest rate in white on top of each bar for Kotzebue, CWAK, and Upper Yukon stock groups harvested in North and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries from 2007 to 2009. The proportion of the total run harvested in Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the Kotzebue and Upper Yukon stock groups is below 1% in all years. The proportion of the total run harvested in all Alaska Peninsula fisheries for the CWAK stock group was 2.4% in 2007, 3.7% in 2008, and 7.2% in 2009. While the WASSIP data are incredibly informative, the data presented here are representative of 2007, 2008, and 2009 and may not reflect stock contributions and harvest rates in recent years.

In response to subsistence fishing closures in western Alaska, the department initiated in 2022 a genetic study of chum salmon harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula. Detailed results from that study are available in a separate report (Dann et al. *in Prep*). The June 2022 fishery was sampled for chum salmon harvest in 2 area strata including the Southeastern and South Central Districts and the Unimak and Southwestern Districts. The Southeastern and South Central Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 1 temporal June stratum for the gillnet fishery. The Unimak and Southwestern Districts area stratum included 4 temporal June strata for the seine fishery and 4 temporal June strata for the gillnet fishery. Sample goals were achieved in 12 of the 13 strata and sufficient samples were available for Mixed Stock Analysis (MSA) in 13 strata. The total 2022 June fishery harvest across all districts, gear types, and strata was considerably larger than July and August harvests, with a total June harvest of 544,064 chum salmon. The Asia group (58.0%) contributed the largest proportion of the harvest in June with an estimated 315,162 fish. The CWAK group (17.7%) had the second largest contribution with an estimated 96,116 fish and the East of Kodiak group (13.4%) contributed an estimated 72,712 fish. Harvests from other reporting groups were relatively small.

In 2014 the department collected genetic samples from commercially harvested king salmon in Chignik Districts outside of Chignik Bay and the South Peninsula Management Area during June, July, and early August. Total harvest of king salmon in the strata sampled in the Chignik Districts outside of Chignik Bay and the South Peninsula Management Area was 12,209 fish. The stock composition for this harvest consisted mainly of British Columbia (42.3%), West Coast US (21.9%), Eastern Bering Sea (20.5%), and Southeast Alaska/Northeast Gulf of Alaska groups. No other reporting groups contributed to greater than 5% of the mixture. Estimated harvests of the largest contributors were British Columbia, 5,169 fish; West Coast US, 2,678 fish; Eastern Bering Sea, 2,498 fish; and Southeast Alaska/Northeast Gulf of Alaska, 954 fish. Harvest from the

Chignik stock group, the nearest local indicator stock was limited to 281 fish. The department has not collected genetic samples from king salmon in this area since 2014.

The board has set the ANS for Yukon Area king salmon at 45,500–66,704; Yukon Area summer chum salmon at 83,500–142,192 fish; Yukon Area fall chum salmon at 89,500–167,900 fish; Yukon Area coho salmon at 20,500–51,980 fish; and Yukon Area pink salmon at 2,100–9,700 fish.

For the Kuskokwim River drainage, the board has set the king salmon ANS at 67,200–109,800 fish; the chum salmon ANS at 41,200–116,400 fish; the sockeye salmon ANS at 32,200–58,700 fish; the coho salmon ANS at 27,400–57,600 fish; and the pink salmon ANS at 500–2,000 fish.

Subsistence harvest data for 2022 are not yet available. Preliminary subsistence harvest data for 2021 indicate that the Yukon king, summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon ANSs have not been met, nor have the Kuskokwim River king, chum, or coho salmon ANSs.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The board does not have authority to direct the department to implement a genetic sampling program.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal would result in substantial additional direct cost for the department to establish an ongoing chum and king salmon genetic sampling program.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE—GROUP 5: SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA SALMON (3 PROPOSALS)**

### ***Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Closed Waters and Description of districts and sections (3 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 150** – Amend districts and sections, *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* and *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* by including the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the Southcentral District.

**5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. 5AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. 5AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District to be included with the South Central District. This proposal also seeks to include the Volcano Bay Section and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat. of the South Central District within the 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Salmon Management Plan.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 09.200 describes the Volcano Bay Section as part of the Southwestern District. From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section South of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of the Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal would move the Volcano Bay section as part of the South Central District and manage the Volcano Bay Section and the specified areas of East and Pavlof Bay Sections under 5 AAC 09.360 Southeastern District Salmon Management Plan instead of the June and Post-June Management Plans. This would likely result in less fishing opportunity for Registration Area M fishermen.

**BACKGROUND:** During the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik meeting, the board made changes to the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5AAC 09.365) and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* (5 AAC 09.366) by adopting regulations to limit the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) described “Dolgoi Island Area” (statistical areas 283-15 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42; Figure 150-1). From June 1 through July 25, when harvest reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon by fish ticket information, the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) and waters of Volcano Bay Section (statistical areas 284-37 through 284-39) close to

commercial salmon fishing through July 25. However, the portion of West Pavlof Bay Section sound of Black Point (statistical area 283-26) reopens to commercial salmon fishing on July 17. All other statistical areas are managed in accordance with each prescribed management plan.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

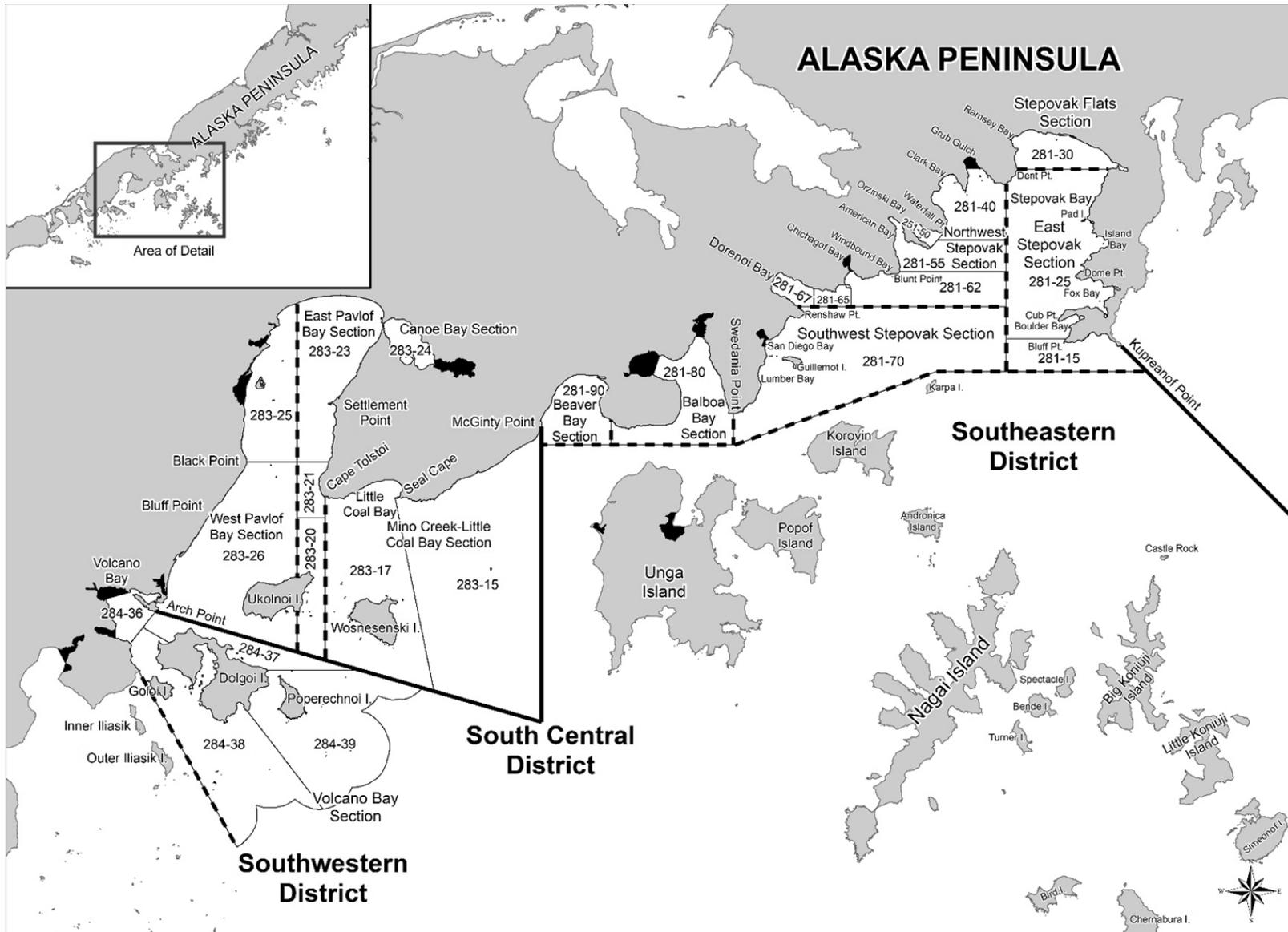


Figure 150-1.—Current description of Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, South Central District, and Southeastern District Main Land of the Southeastern District.

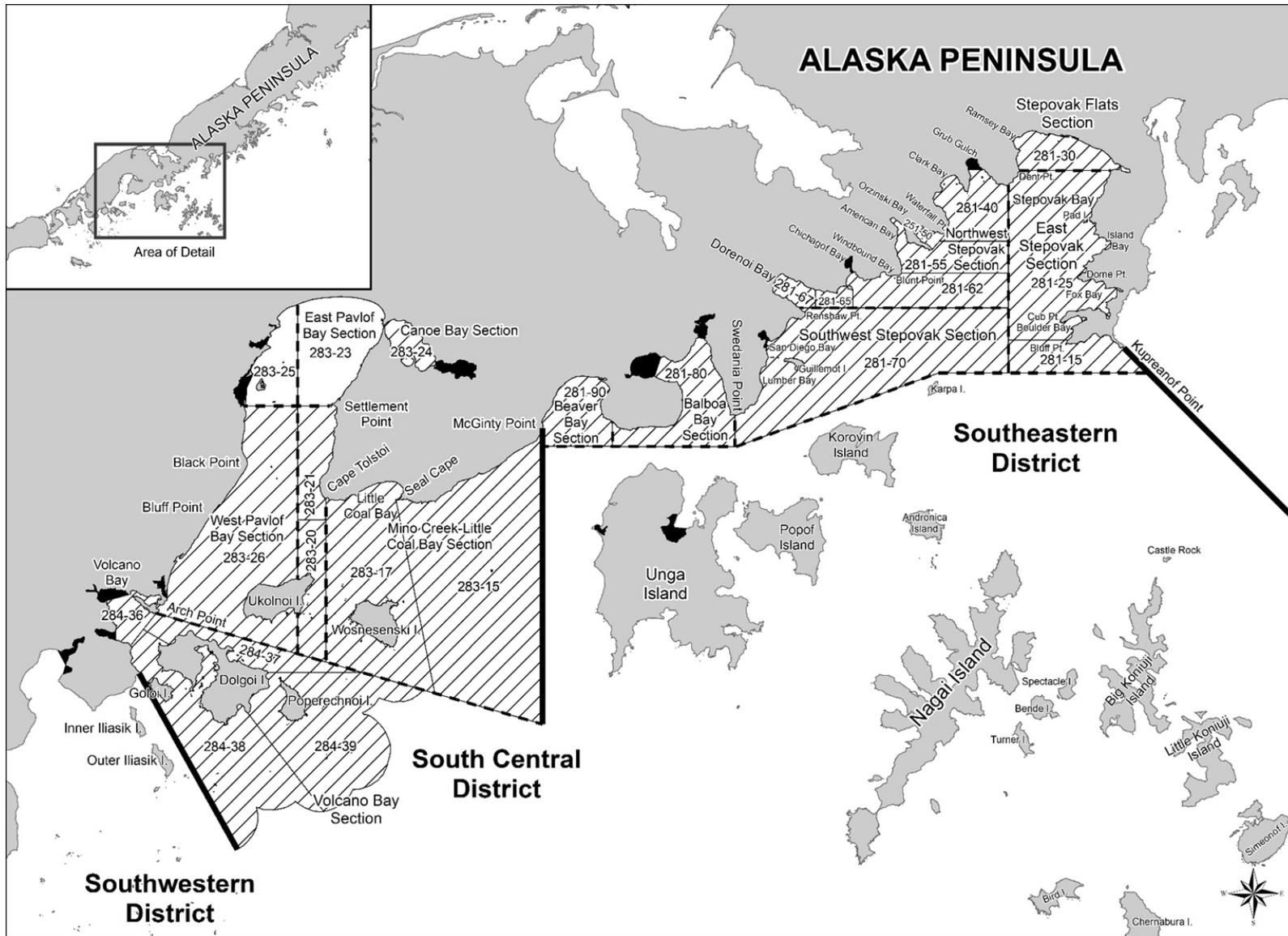


Figure 150-2.—Proposed changes to include Volcano Bay Section in South Central District. Hashed area depicts proposed sections to be included in *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

**PROPOSAL 151 – Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow offshore anchoring of the up to 25 fathom seine web lead.**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** In the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts, 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet. The lead must be retrieved when the set gillnet is hauled out of the water.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Current regulations state that 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet. When seine webbing is used as a lead for a set gillnet in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts, the shoreward end of the seine webbing must be attached to the beach above low tide. When a set gillnet does not use a lead, there are no restrictions on where the shoreward end needs to be anchored, except in the Unimak District during the June fishery described in 5 AAC 09.365, a person may not place the shoreward end of a set gillnet further than one-half mile from the mean high tide mark.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** A lead would no longer be required to be attached to the beach above low tide; instead, it would be anchored on the shoreward end of the set gillnet. Adoption of this proposal would allow the use of a lead with set gillnet gear anywhere in Registration Area M that allow set gillnet gear regardless of the ocean depth. There would likely be an increase in gear conflicts because this proposal would expand the range of lead use with set gillnet gear. Effects on harvest are unknown, but variation in ocean depth and distance away from shore could change the catch composition.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1968, the use of 10 fathoms of seine webbing as a set gillnet lead was established in regulation. The use of a seine lead for set gillnet gear was not intended to fish deeper waters but to help funnel fish that travel closer to shore; therefore, the lead is required to be anchored to the beach above low tide. In 2010, the legal length of seine webbing used as a lead for the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts increased from 10 fathoms to 25 fathoms, but the definition of where the lead could be anchored remained unchanged. Prior to 1968, no regulation allowed or prohibited the use of seine webbing as leads for set gillnet gear in these districts.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

**PROPOSAL 152 – Amend the closed water boundary in Stepovak Bay to increase commercial fishing area in the Stepovak Flats Section.**

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reduce closed waters in the Stepovak Bay Section to allow more opportunity to harvest local pink and chum salmon stocks while retaining protections for systems that are difficult to aerial survey due to discolored water.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In 5AAC09.350 (36) the closed waters of Stepovak Bay from July 29 through September 30, are waters north of a line extending from Dent Point at 55° 47.25' N. lat., 159° 52.00' W. long. to a point on Kupreanof Peninsula at 55° 46.93' N. lat., 159° 38.70' W. long. (Figure 152-1).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Increase fishing area in Stepovak Bay and likely increase harvest of pink and chum salmon in August.

**BACKGROUND:** Closed waters of Stepovak Bay have been in regulation since at least 1962. Under the current management plan, this area is closed from July 29 through September 30 to conserve schooling chum salmon. Glacial runoff into Stepovak River and Big River makes it nearly impossible to assess pink and chum salmon abundance prior to fish making it to the spawning grounds.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Streams that drain into closed waters of Stepovak Bay have large amounts of glacial runoff throughout the year. This makes assessing escapements by aerial survey nearly impossible in this area. The department has, under perfect survey conditions, observed large numbers of salmon schooling in Stepovak Bay, with little escapement into Stepovak Bay streams, well after salmon escapements in adjoining areas have peaked.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in additional direct cost for the department.

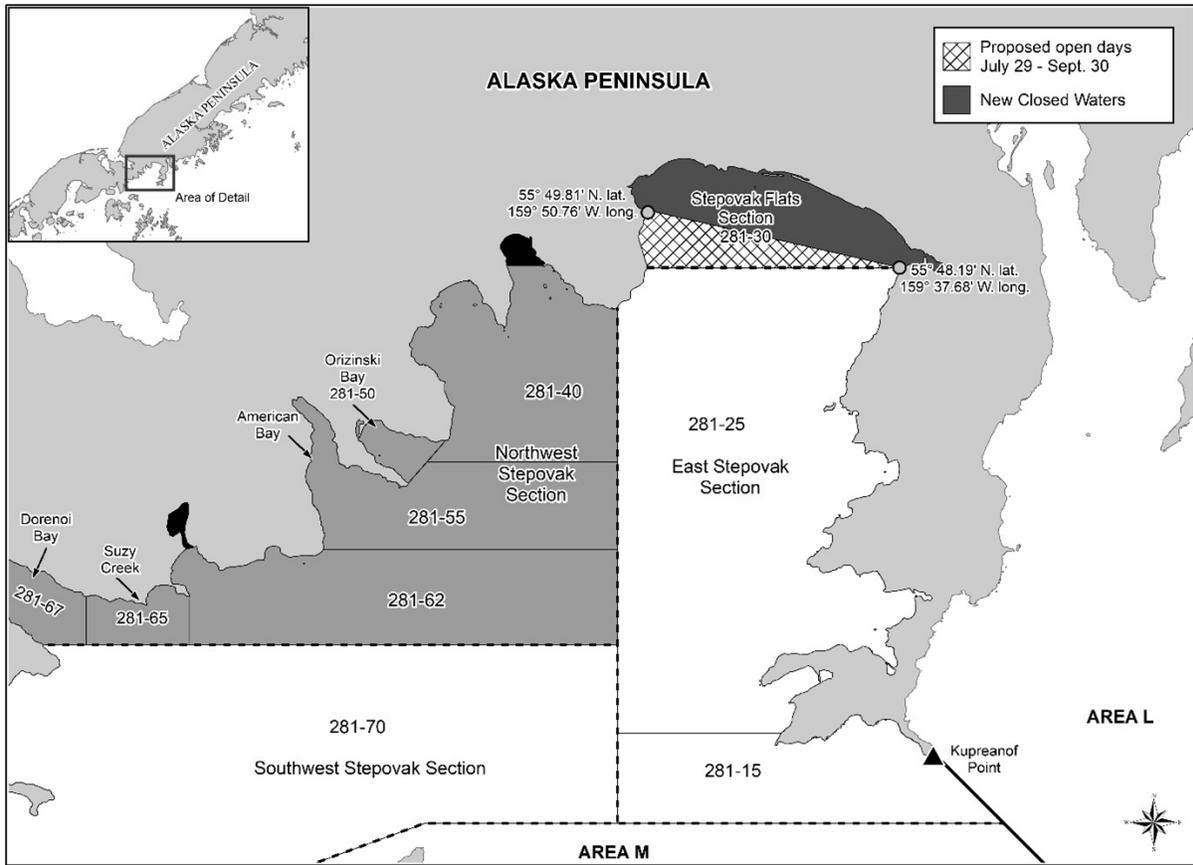


Figure 152-1.—Map of current and proposed closed waters in the Stepovak Flats Section of the Southeastern District.